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New Wave Wrestling #14

FDC 50160 • OCTOBER 1994

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New Wave Wrestling®

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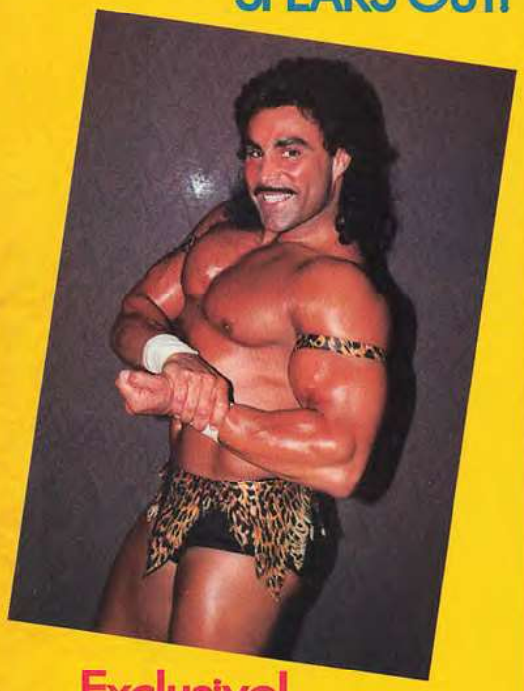

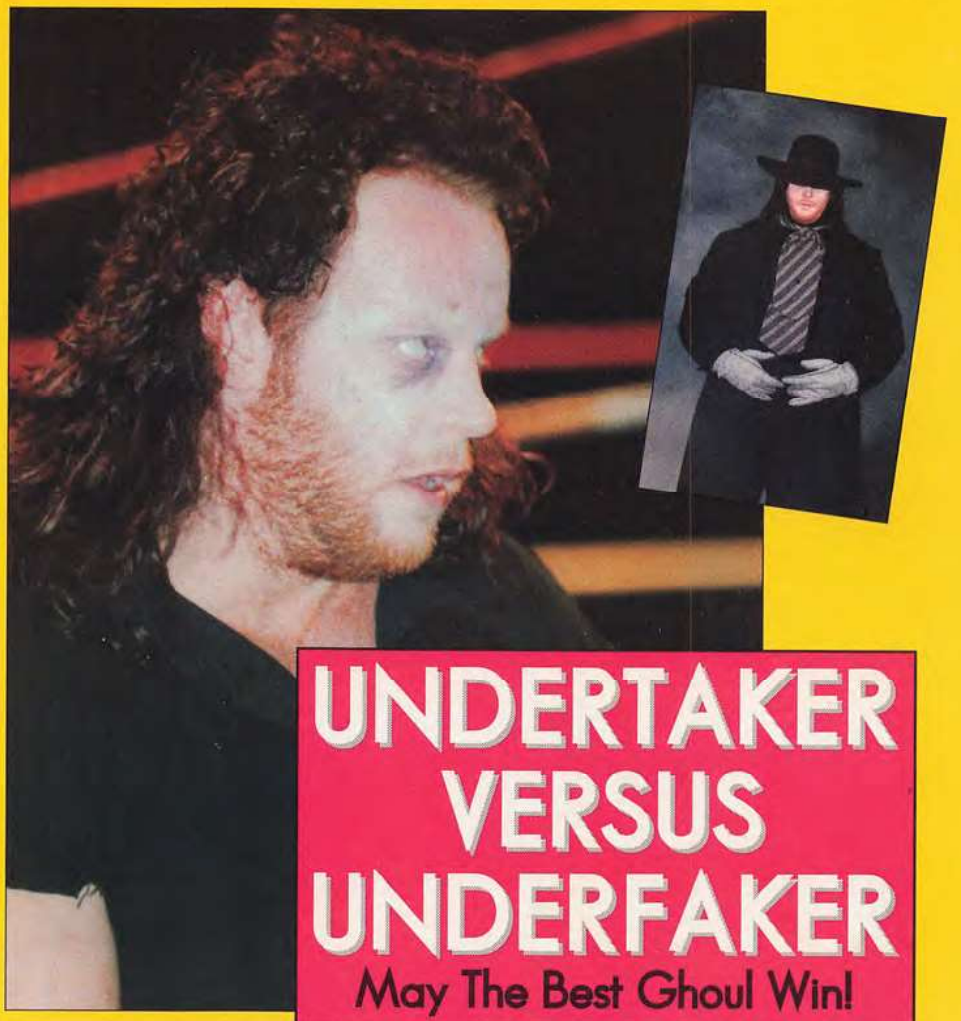

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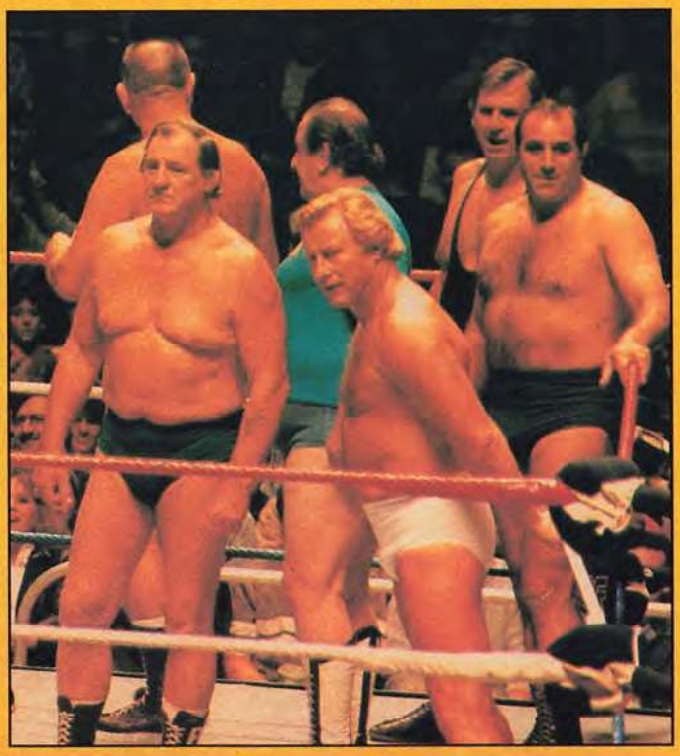

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VOL. 1, NO. 14
OCTOBER 1994

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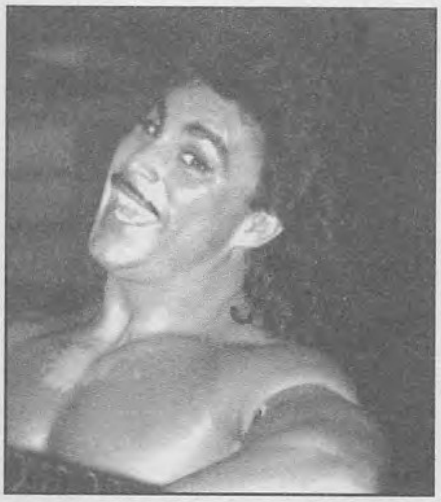

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Cover Photos: Johnny B. Badd (Jerry Wilson) • Jerry Lawler (James Rucker) • Rosebud (Sandy DeLuca) • Singapore Caning Match (Jon Simmes) • Undertaker (Tiiu Van Winkle & Koichi Yoshizawa).
Color Pinups: Johnny B. Badd (Jerry Wilson) • Rosebud (Sandy DeLuca).

OFFICIAL PRO-WRESTLING RANKINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Bret "Hitman" Hart
2. Jerry "the King" Lawler
3. Razor Ramon
4. Shawn Michaels
5. Jeff Jarrett
6. Diesel
7. Owen Hart
8. Jim "the Anvil" Neidhart
9. Yokozuna
10. The Undertaker

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
TOP-FIVE TAG TEAMS

1. The Headshrinkers
2. The Heavenly Bodies
3. Owen Hart & Jim Neidhart
4. Men On a Mission
5. The Smoking Gunns

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Big Van Vader (U.S.)
2. Shinya Hashimoto (Japan)
3. Stan Hansen (U.S.)
4. Tatsumi Fujinami (Japan)
5. Bret "Hitman" Hart (Canada)
6. Konnan El Barbaro (Mexico)
7. Genichiro Tenryu (Japan)
8. "Nature Boy" Ric Flair (U.S.)
9. El Canek (Mexico)
10. Terry Funk (U.S.)

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Jushin "Thunder" Lyger (Japan)
2. Sabu (U.S.)
3. 2 Cold Scorpio (U.S.)
4. Chris Benoit (Canada)
5. Owen Hart (Canada)
6. Dean Malenko (U.S.)
7. 1-2-3 Kid (U.S.)
8. Dr. Wagner, Jr. (Mexico)
9. Marty Jones (U.K.)
10. Atlantis (Mexico)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. "Nature Boy" Ric Flair
2. Hulk Hogan
3. Vader
4. Sting
5. "Lord" Steven Regal
6. Ricky "the Dragon" Steamboat
7. "Stunning" Steve Austin
8. Dustin Rhodes
9. The Guardian Angel
10. Johnny B. Badd

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
TOP-FIVE TAG TEAMS

1. Cactus Jack & Kevin Sullivan
2. Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma
3. Terry Funk & Bunkhouse Buck
4. Marcus A. Bagwell & The Patriot
5. The Nasty Boys

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN TAG TEAMS

1. The Hell Raisers (U.S./Japan)
2. The Jurassic Powers (U.S.)
3. The Steiners—Rick & Scott (U.S.)
4. The Heavenly Bodies (U.S.)
5. Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas (U.S.)
6. Mil Mascaras & Dos Caras (Mexico)
7. The Rock & Roll Express (U.S.)
8. The Bruise Brothers (U.S.)
9. Sabu & Bobby Eaton (U.S.)
10. Terry Funk & Bunkhouse Buck (U.S.)

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN WOMEN

1. Aja Kong (Japan)
2. Alundra Blayze (U.S.)
3. Bull Nakano (Japan)
4. Megumi Kudo (Japan)
5. Monster Ripper (Puerto Rico)
6. Debbie Malenko (U.S.)
7. Miss Texas (U.S.)
8. Yumiko Hotta (Japan)
9. Zuleyma (Mexico)
10. Misty Blue (U.S.)

MICHAEL O'HARA
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

ROMA O'HARA
Managing Editor

ROMA & MIKE
Art Directors

ALLAN BATCHELOR
Illustrator

RON ANDREWS
DAVE CAMERON
SANDY DeLUCA
KATHY DOWD
BILLIE JESSEE
KOICHI YOSHIZAWA
Associate Editors

STEVE BRYANT
JEFF COHEN
GREGG LALKA
BOB MURPHY
JERRY WILSON
Photographers

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Official Mascot

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COMMENTARY
FROM THE CUTTING EDGE
by Publisher/Editor MICHAEL O'HARA

GREETINGS, ***New Waver***, and welcome to the fantabulous fourteenth edition of ***New Wave Wrestling***—dedicated to the most fantastic and gymnastic grapplers in the grunt 'n' groan game.

Continuing on with our *History of Professional Wrestling Series* (for details, see last issue's editorial), we have included a special feature on Gorgeous George—the father of modern-day mat gimmickry, along with a full-color, pullout poster chronicling the *History of the Women's World Title*.

In answer to the many letters that have flooded ***NWW HQ*** —YES, we have made sizable inroads into the awesome amount of historical mat data inundating our workspace. Keep your ever-lovin' eyeballs peeled for future issues. We have so many surprises in store just for YOU—it'll send you soaring into the slamtastic stratosphere!

While on the subject of future issues—please avoid the disappointment of a sellout and order our next ish—***NWW #15*** —*Right Now!* You can use the handy, dandy order form found on **Page 56**.

Enough ballyhoo! It's time to get down to my cantankerous commentary!

In May of this year, preliminary wrestler Charles Austin, was awarded $26.7 million in a lawsuit filed against the World Wrestling Federation. The wrestler landed headfirst on the mat during a 1990 WWF tag-team match against the Rockers. As a result of this maneuver, the rookie was left partially paralyzed.

Whether the awarded amount is exorbitant or conservative is a moot point; the focus should now be placed upon the use of high-risk moves in the world of sports entertainment. This verdict should have supplied a reality check for all members of the wrestling fraternity.

For the promoters, it is a blaring siren alerting them to the dangers of encouraging questionable tactics as a selling point. With a precedent case now firmly imbedded into the law journals, you can be sure that the recent $26.7 million verdict will look like a drop in the proverbial bucket with the passing of subsequent lawsuits.

For the wrestlers, the obsession with high-risk moves in recent years has placed everyone's career in jeopardy—the inexperienced rookies, the unsuspecting veterans, and the fringe, sadomasochistic element that has been making its presence felt in greater numbers with each passing year.

For the fans, young and old alike, the basic selling point of pro wrestling has always been good versus evil—a simplified notion perhaps—but it is not too far from the truth in this and most other forms of entertainment —movies, television, and literature. Throughout the ages, the great mythic figures have engaged in never-ending battles. On that higher plane of existence, the gods have waged war for our amusement.

In the eyes of fandom, the wrestlers of our era can easily be classified into two eternal categories of good (hero/babyface) and evil (villain/heel). The characterizations are easily identifiable as good or bad, but in the process of emphasizing violence over athletics, the promoters have blurred the line of distinction between these two opposing forces.

It is the promoter's judgement (or lack thereof) which has led us down this inevitable path toward violent activity without merit. Needless to say, the very nature of professional wrestling stems from a violent origin, but, if coupled with nobility and respect for athletics, can easily take a very different form than what currently passes as sports entertainment. It's not too late!

From the very onset, ***New Wave Wrestling*** has decided to take the high road. Wrestling promotions and magazines that build upon a base of reckless violence and sensationalism may prosper in the short run, but they are merely cheating themselves (and the fans) by settling for mediocrity.

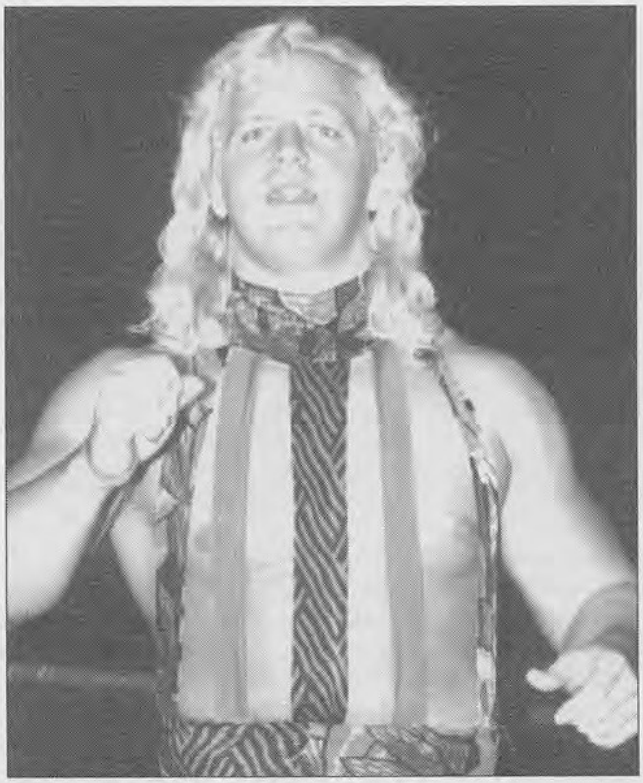
The human spirit intuitively searches for the highest and greatest good. Historically, it can be traced through humankind's adoration of all things honoring perfection, whether it be the perfect work of art or great literature. Let's add flawless pro-wrestling technicians to the list.

Until next time, keep those positive waves, baby!

MICHAEL O'HARA

NEXT WAVE NEWSREEL

MAT NEWS OF THE PAST, PRESENT & FAR-FLUNG FUTURE!



HE'S NOT SINGING THE BLUES: The fact is Jeff Jarrett isn't singing anything. He's too busy winning matches in the WWF! photo: Jerry Wilson

WWF: The coming autumn months show great promise for non-stop action under the WWF and WCW banners. Without further ado, let's look at recent mat happenings as well as what to expect in the coming fall season.

Doink (Ray Apollo) scored a major upset by pinning Bob Backlund in a recent match in Honolulu, Hawaii...The Barbarian is working spot shows...King Kong Bundy, British Bulldog, and Maxx Payne are rumored to be WWF-bound... Ronnie P. Gossett is expected to be the manager of Jeff Jarrett by the time you read this.

Quebecer Jacques (Jacques Rougeau Jr.) has allegedly taken a sabbatical from the ring in order to pursue a career in comedy, and he will host his very own morning radio program in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Jacques' brother, Raymond Rougeau, recently returned to the WWF rings for tag matches with partner Virgil (Michael Jones) ...Well Dunn are back working spot shows... Vladimir Koloff, managed by former WWWF World champion Ivan Koloff, is rumored to be WWF-bound.

Typhoon (Fred Ottman) has returned as a substitute for the Canadian Earthquake (John Tenta). He is feuding with Yokozuna.

Koko B. Ware (James Ware) has been working WWF spot shows and USWA bookings...Rick "The Model" Martel substituted for Shawn Michaels during their recent tour of Japan.

Curt "Mr. Perfect" Hennig has left the WWF. It's rumored he's WCW-bound.

A ***New Wave Salute*** to the WWF for initiating the *WWF Hall of Fame* this past June honoring the following inductees: Arnold Skaaland (a competent wrestler who gained his greatest fame as the manager to champions Bruno Sammartino and Bob Backlund), Freddie Blassie, Bobo Brazil (Houston Harris), Chief Jay Strongbow (Joseph Scarpa), Gino "Gorilla Monsoon" Marella, and the late, great "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers.

Let's hope that the Federation will offer a proverbial olive branch of peace to Bruno Sammartino at next year's event. No matter how hard they try to rewrite history—without Bruno wrestling back then, there might not be a WWF now!

Speaking of living legends, that famed turnbuckle chewer, George "the Animal" Steele (James Myers), has captured the plum role of playing wrestler-turned-actor Tor Johnson in Tim Burton's motion picture on Ed Wood Junior, the low-budget movie mogul of the 1950s.

Take a good, hard look at WWF prelim Rich Myers the next time he's on the boob tube; he's the son of the aforementioned George Steele!

Ludwig Borga (Tony Halme) has left the

WWF... Roddy Piper's latest flick for Universal Pictures is called "Tough and Deadly." We've also heard of another Piper flick called "Back in Action," but this might very well be the same film with a title change.

Alundra Blayze is certainly in need of an influx of contenders. After vanquishing the likes of Luna Vachon in the States & Bull Nakano, Kyoko Inoue, and Sakie Hasegawa during her recent tour of Japan, Ms. Blayze needs new challengers in order to keep her squared-circle skills sharpened!

After a lengthy vacation from the ring (and enjoying the arrival of his new baby boy!), The Undertaker (Mark Callaway) returned from the dead in fine fighting form by defeating Yokozuna (Rodney Anoai) and Adam Bomb (Bryan Clark) in singles competition; he also joined forces with Genichiro Tenryu to defeat Bam Bam Bigelow and Yokozuna. The matches were a part of the WWF's recent minitour of Japan.

Jesse "the Body" Ventura (James Janos) was awarded a lump sum payment of $809,958 in his lawsuit against the WWF. The lawsuit stemmed from the use of Jesse's color commentary on numerous WWF videotapes.

Survivor Series is tentatively set for November 23... Adam Bomb is heading for cheers after breaking off with tag partner Kwang (Juan Rivera)... New arrival Duke "the Dumpster" Droese (Mike Droese) appears to be getting the push as the working-class Hulk Hogan! What are you gonna do when "the Dumpster" gets a hold of you ?!

WCW: The Pretty Wonderful duo of (Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma) are feuding with Cactus Jack & Kevin Sullivan over the tag straps... The Masked Haito is none other than Paul Diamond (Tom Boric).

Looks as if the ol' Horsemen routine is coming out of the mothballs with Arn Anderson enrolling Dustin Rhodes into the fold. How many weeks will this mutual admiration society last?

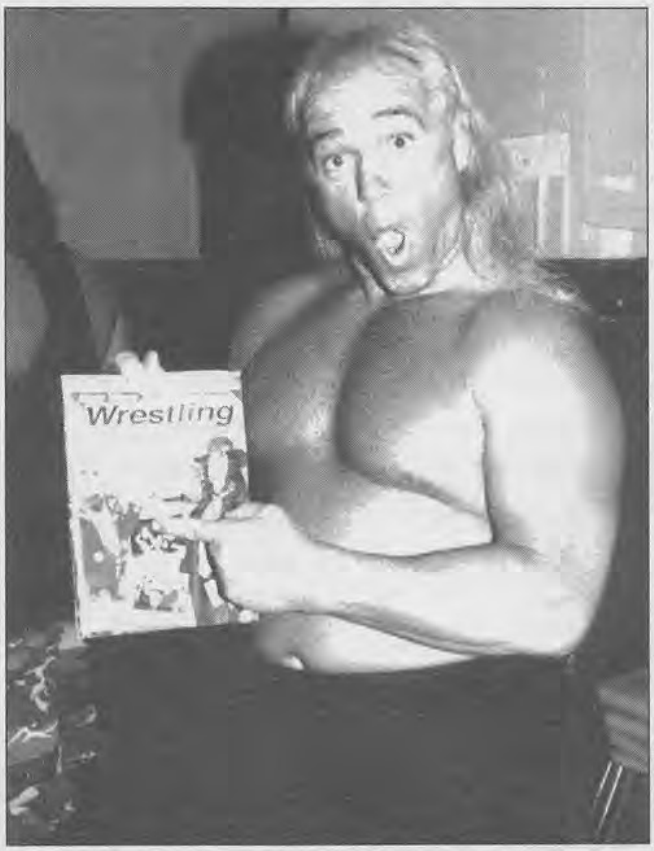
2 Cold Scorpio (Charles Skaggs) and El Gigante (Jorge Gonzalez) have left WCW; they are currently on tour in Japan.

World title matches featuring "Nature Boy" Ric Flair against "the Dragon" Ricky

RETRO RASSLIN' RECAP

A Summary of 1994 WWF & WCW Mat History & Title Changes

- **March 29, 1994 at Royal Albert Hall in London, England:**
  Men on a Mission (Nelson Frazier & Bobby Horn) defeated the Quebecers (Jacques Rougeau & Pierre Oulette) for the WWF World tag-team straps.
- **March 31, 1994 in Sheffield, England:**
  The Quebecers: Pierre & Jacques defeated Men on a Mission to regain the WWF World tag laurels.
- **April 12, 1994 in Chicago, IL (Spring Stampede):**
  Sting pinned "Ravishing" Rick Rude to capture the WCW World/International heavyweight championship.
  Also on the same card, WCW World heavyweight champion Ric Flair gained a decision over Ricky Steamboat when both men had their shoulders on the mat for a three-count. The title was held up pending a return match on April 21.
- **April 13, 1994 in Rochester, NY:**
  Big Daddy Cool—Diesel (Kevin Nash) defeated Razor Ramon (Scott Hall) for the WWF Intercontinental heavyweight championship.
- **April 21, 1994 in Atlanta, GA (Center Stage TV Taping):**
  "Nature Boy" Ric Flair defeated Ricky "the Dragon" Steamboat to recapture the vacant WCW World heavyweight crown.
- **April 26 in Burlington, VT:**
  The Headshrinkers, with the returning Captain Louis Albano in their corner, captured the tag straps from the Quebecers.
- **May 1, 1994 in Fukuoka, Japan:**
  Rick Rude (Rick Rood) defeated Sting (Steve Borden) to regain the WCW World/International title.
- **May 2, 1994 in Atlanta, GA:**
  "New Living Legend" Larry Zbyszko pinned "Lord" Steven Regal to capture the WCW Television heavyweight championship.
- **May 14, 1994 in Orlando, FL (TV taping at MGM Studios):**
  "Ravishing" Rick Rude relinquished his claim to the WCW World/International title due to a contract dispute.
- **May 22, 1994 in Philadelphia, PA (Slamboree):**
  Kevin Sullivan & Cactus Jack defeated The Nasty Boys: Saggs & Knobbs to win the WCW World tag-team titles in a Broad Street Bully Brawl (special guest referee—Philadelphia Flyers hockey great, Dave Schultz).
  On the same card, Sting defeated Vader (Leon White) to capture the vacant WCW World/International heavyweight title.
- **June 23, 1994 in Charleston, SC (Clash of the Champions):**
  WCW World heavyweight champion Ric Flair pinned WCW World International champion Sting to unify both heavyweight championships.
  On the same card, "Lord" Steven Regal pinned Larry Zbyszko to regain the WCW Television title.



No Clowning Around: "Bad Attitude" Steve Keirn appears discombobulated by the bombastic babblings found within the pages of our pulse-pounding publication. photo: Pete Lederberg

Steamboat headlined most of the June and July tours. Can the Hulk Hogan-Ric Flair grudge feud exceed the sheer brilliance of those scorching summer bouts?

Speaking of Hogan in WCW-land, don't be surprised to see Hulk's entourage — namely, Brutus "the Barber" Beefcake & Jimmy Hart — as major role players.

It's great to see Larry "Spud Head" Zbyszko (Larry Whistler) back in the ring... "Stunning" Steve Austin (Steve Williams) has been flying solo without the help of Col. Rob Parker (Robert Fuller). The good Colonel has his hands fulls with Ming (Lenny "King Haku" Hurst) and the wild tandem of Terry Funk & Bunkhouse Buck (Jimmy Golden).

Terra Ryzing is now wrestling as Jean Paul LeVeque (his real name).

Cactus Jack lost his right ear as a result of a match with Vader in Germany a few months ago. The wrestling wild man had been keeping it (the ear) in one piece with the use of surgical tape for the past few months.

Bravo to WCW! They came to their senses and unified their World and World-International belts into one. It's been long overdue.

The Patriot (Del Wilkes) and Marcus Alexander Bagwell are thrilling fans as the Stars & Stripes tag team ... Billy Jack Haynes' cousin Brady Boone has been working here.

Missy Hyatt recently filed a sexual harassment claim in Georgia against WCW with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. Missy has also brought her case to the media with appearances on various tabloid TV programs... It looks as if "Sensuous" Sherri Martel found her perfect man in none other than "Nature Boy" Ric Flair.

WCW is also entitled to a special ***New Wave Wrestling Salute*** for their *WCW Hall of Fame* ceremony this past May. The inductees were seven-time NWA World champion Harley Race, The Crusher (Reggie Lisowski — the Man Who Made Milwaukee Famous), "The Big Cat" Ernie Ladd, The Assassin, Ole Anderson (Al Rogoski), and the late Dick the Bruiser (Richard Afflis).

I've mentioned Harley Race in the previous paragraph. Well, rumor has it, he'll be honored with a special retirement tour this fall in Japan. I'll have more on this in our next issue.

Wayne Bloom (formerly Beau Beverly) & Mike Enos (formerly Blake Beverly) might be WCW-bound. This deadly duo once held the AWA World tag straps under the monicker of The Wrecking Crew ... "Dirty" Dick Slater has returned for a few spot shows, but he's spending most of his time on the World Wrestling Council circuit in Puerto Rico.

Taking a lead from the WWF and their talent-exchange policy with Smoky Mountain Wrestling and the USWA of Memphis, it appears that WCW is trying to create a talent exchange with promoter Todd Gordon and his Eastern Championship Wrestling of Philadelphia, PA. This is a very good idea.

The Big Boss Man (Raymond Traylor) has evolved into The Guardian Angel... Look for Dusty Rhodes to return to the ring in tag-team action with son Dustin against Terry Funk & Bunkhouse Buck!

While on the topic of top-ranking tag teams, the Bad Attitude combination of Steve Keirn and "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton are probably the most underrated duo on this major-league circuit. Let's hope they break out from the pack in the very near future and capture a much-deserved tag title.

A few months ago, the media romantically linked Road Warrior Hawk to Eleanor Mondale, the daughter of former Vice-President Walter Mondale. Well, at least "Fritz" now has something to take his mind off losing the 1980 Presidential election.

All in all, it looks as if wrestling is back on the right track with top talent and exciting matchmaking. For a peek at what's been going on elsewhere, check our other rhapsodic rasslin' reports on pages 40 and 52. ***NWW***

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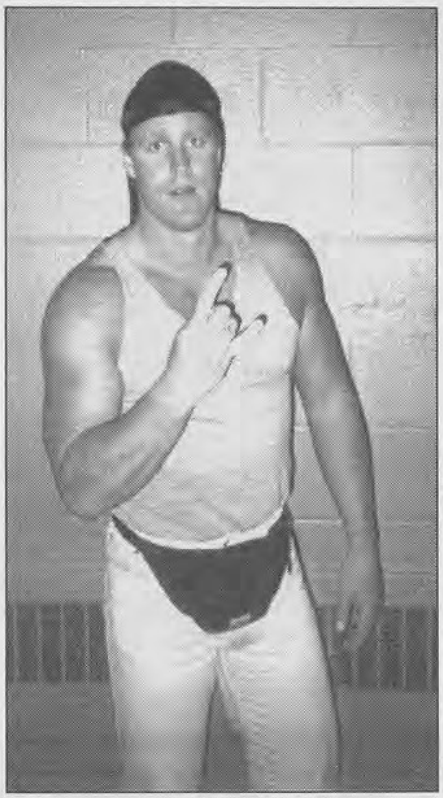
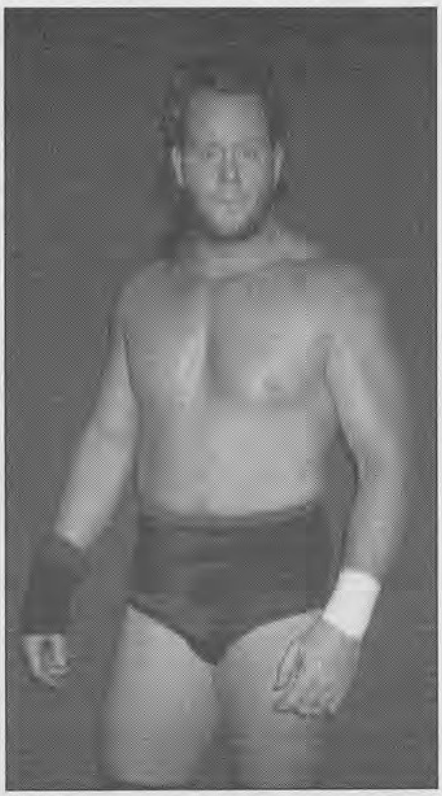


UNDERTAKER versus UNDERFAKER

May The Best Ghoul Win!



by Michael O'Hara photos: Joseph McCarthy • John Mills • Jerry Wilson

PERHAPS YOU CAN FOOL SOME OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME, and fool all of the people some of the time, but you can't "ghoul" any of the people (especially ***New Wavers***) any of the time. That's the conclusion we've drawn from the outpouring of mail here at ***NWW HQ***.

Once Ted DiBiase's Undertaker made his initial appearences on the syndicated WWF broadcasts for the weekend of June 18, 1994, our fearless readers went into action, asking: "Who was that werewolf in sheep's clothing?"

While Ted's "Underfaker" has done a spectacularly splendid job impersonating matdom's favorite crypt keeper, our volume of mail speaks for itself. The fans immediately knew that something was rotten in Transylvania.

Upon first inspection, this grappling grim reaper had mastered all of the Undertaker's standard moves and timing to perfection, but the slight physical differences were the eventual telltale signs of another Ted DiBiase con job.

So who is this number-two ghoul you ask? He's none other than "Prime Time" Brian Lee! This tenacious, tough-as-nails competitor has been ruling the rings under Jim Cornette's Smoky Mountain Wrestling banner in Kentucky for quite some time. The former Smoky Mountain Wrestling heavyweight champion is no stranger to world-class competition; he's faced the very best in regional talent.

His background also includes ample stints on both sides of the fence — he's competed as a fan favorite and other times as a rulebreaker. He's held back the underhanded challenges of the Dirty White Boy, "Sweet" Stan Lane, Dr. Tom Prichard, and Jimmy Del Rey. Currently, he is splitting his time between limited WWF bookings and matches in Smoky Mountain, where he's teaming with Chris Candido against the Rock & Roll Express over the SMW tag-team straps.

He should be in the WWF on a full-time basis just at the time you read this, and his matches with the Undertaker will reach a fever pitch in their post-SummerSlam rematches this fall.

Brian's "dead-on" impersonation of "the Dark One" (Mark Callaway) has been so accurate that this upcoming Undertaker versus Underfaker series of matches has already become the talk of the mat lands.

It will be interesting to see fan reaction to these matches; the contests will no doubt rely on visual presentation and atmosphere rather than actual wrestling skills. While both men have proven their agility and prowess in the past, a series of bouts in which both participants move in a very cautious, stalking manner might prove to be either a hit or a miss. We won't know for sure until the mail starts pouring in with your comments and criticisms.

More than anything else, this surge in interest proves a dire need for the rotation of top stars. Few can dispute the huge popularity of the Undertaker, but his brief hiatus from the squared circle (to spend time with his wife and new baby) only increased his tremendous fan appeal.

For the top stars, it is a necessary ingredient for long-term popularity. How many times have you seen popular wrestlers eventually wear out their welcome

A MILLION LAUGHS: Ted DiBiase's procurement of the Underfaker has added new twists and thrills for the coming fall season.

by staying in a promotion for far too long?

Of course, the very nature of the wrestling business has changed to such an extent that there are really only two sources for full-time employment in the United States—namely, the WWF and WCW. If wrestlers are to accept long-term, exclusive contracts with one of the "big two," they should certainly consider limiting the number of matches per year in order to avoid fan burnout. Taking fewer bookings over the course of a year will decrease annual income, but it will certainly add additional years of demand, which will translate into untold greater long-term revenue.

Nonetheless, this surprising "dueling ghouls" storyline has sparked interest on the part of ***New Wavers*** worldwide. We're glad to see the matchmakers have come up with an idea capturing the imagination of the fans. That's the most important result for any promotional effort. If the fans show a curiosity about a confrontation, the promoter is doing his job.

At any rate, my money is riding on the Undertaker, because the Underfaker doesn't stand a ghost of a chance!

NWW

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1. "Nature Boy" Ric Flair and "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers are related.	TRUE	FALSE
2. Hulk Hogan and Brutus "the Barber" Beefcake are brothers.	TRUE	FALSE
3. Rick Martel and Tito Santana once held the WWF World tag titles.	TRUE	FALSE
4. Johnny B. Badd once wrestled as a rulebreaker.	TRUE	FALSE
5. The Fabulous Moolah held the Ladies' title longer than anyone else.	TRUE	FALSE
6. Alundra Blayze once held the AWA Women's World championship.	TRUE	FALSE
7. Marcus A. Bagwell used to wrestle as the Handsome Stranger.	TRUE	FALSE
8. Little Tokyo was once recognized as the World Midget champion.	TRUE	FALSE
9. Jim Duggan began his career as a WWF preliminary.	TRUE	FALSE
10. Gorgeous George never held a version of the World title.	TRUE	FALSE
11. Legendary Lou Thesz wrestled in Japan at 74 years of age.	TRUE	FALSE
12. Mil Mascaras has never been unmasked in the ring.	TRUE	FALSE
13. Dick "the Bulldog" Brower was called "The One-Man Riot Squad."	TRUE	FALSE
14. None of the original Graham Brothers were related.	TRUE	FALSE
15. Hulk Hogan used to wrestle under the name of Sterling Golden.	TRUE	FALSE

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THE NOSTALGIA ZONE

The Legend of GORGEOUS GEORGE

story by Michael O'Hara • photos: Dave Cameron collection

THERE JUST DOESN'T seem to be any middle ground when you discuss wrestling's legendary "human orchid," Gorgeous George. To some, he was the savior of the grappling game, bringing his outrageous visual antics to the embryonic medium of television. To others, he was an opportunist, devoid of actual mat skills and surviving (thriving) on his charismatic wits.

Although everyone seems to have an opinion of this colorful, curly-haired competitor, few have any REAL information on this important figure in mat history.

In 1915, he was born George Raymond Wagner in Seward, Nebraska, but was raised in Houston, Texas. At the height of the Great Depression, this hungry youngster made his pro–wrestling debut at the young age of fourteen!

For the next eleven years, he tooled around the various U.S. regional circuits before being catapulted into grappling stardom—a direct result of his growing a flowing mop of black hair, and then dyeing it blond.

George's statistics have been inaccurately reported over the years. At the apex of his popularity (notoriety?), he stood five-feet-nine and weighed 215 pounds.

After removing his flowing sequined robes and "Georgie" pins (gold-plated bobby pins to the uninitiated), Wagner was usually overmatched by his burly opponents. His sheer dynamic personality made George "appear" larger-than-life to the rabid audiences nationwide.

Whenever attendance figures were sagging, the blond brawler would be booked against the local "hometown" hero.

During TV's infancy, "the Gorgeous One" boosted ratings to new heights. His mad theatrics were the perfect complement to the emerging entertainment technology.

While accompanied by an assortment of servants, such as Geoffrey and Thomas Ross, his ring butlers, as well as numerous lovely valets, George was one of the very first to usher in a variety of bizarre rituals. While competing in California, he would rest between falls by breathing "fresh Florida air" from an oxygen tank. While in Florida, he would breathe "fresh California air" — anything to agitate the paying crowd.

His flamboyant entrances into the arenas were the most talked about events of the 1940s and early 1950s. Before he would wrestle, his servants would spray disinfectant over the mat. Allegedly, it was personally concocted by George and christened "Chanel Number 10." The brash bad boy would always add,"Why be half sure." Much in the same way that today's wrestlers walk to the ring accompanied by music, George would majestically saunter down the aisle to the sounds of "Pomp and Circumstance."

His coiffures were almost as legendary as his ring performances. His hair, marcelled in an exuberant explosion of blond curls, would almost always be splattered beyond recognition within the first five minutes of ring action—courtesy of his ring rival.

At one point in time, George had close to one hundred elaborately embroidered robes, and he would travel the circuits with as many as five trunks!

A consummate rulebreaker at all times, his villainy earned him in excess of $70,000 at the peak of his "unpopularity."

And unpopular he was! A match held on August 25, 1949 with Jim "The Black Panther" Mitchell at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles ended in a full-scale riot. The Gorgeous One tossed his opponent out of the ring, and he was awarded the decision. Angry fans leaped into the ring. A free-for-all erupted in the arena and eventually tumbled out into the street. One fan was knifed and several were injured. George emerged unscathed.

From 1937 to 1949, wrestling was not held at New York City's famed Madison Square Garden. After a twelve year absence, the mat sport returned to the "Big Apple" on February 22, 1949, with George pinning Ernie Dusek in the main event at 26:57 before a somewhat disappointing crowd of 4,197 ($13,957 gate).

So recognizable was George that Republic Pictures featured him in a 1949 motion picture called "Alias the Champ." ***New Wave Wrestling*** has been unable to obtain a copy of this film. (Does anyone out there have a copy? Has anyone ever seen this film?)

In Chicago, Illinois on May 26, 1950, "Double G" attained the highest of heights in his chosen profession by scoring a controversial victory over Native American mat ace Don Eagle to capture the American Wrestling Association World title.

In one of his last important main events, held at Sunnyside Gardens in Queens, New York on April 19, 1960, the 45-year-old George was pinned (at 6:40) by a rising newcomer named Bruno Sammartino.

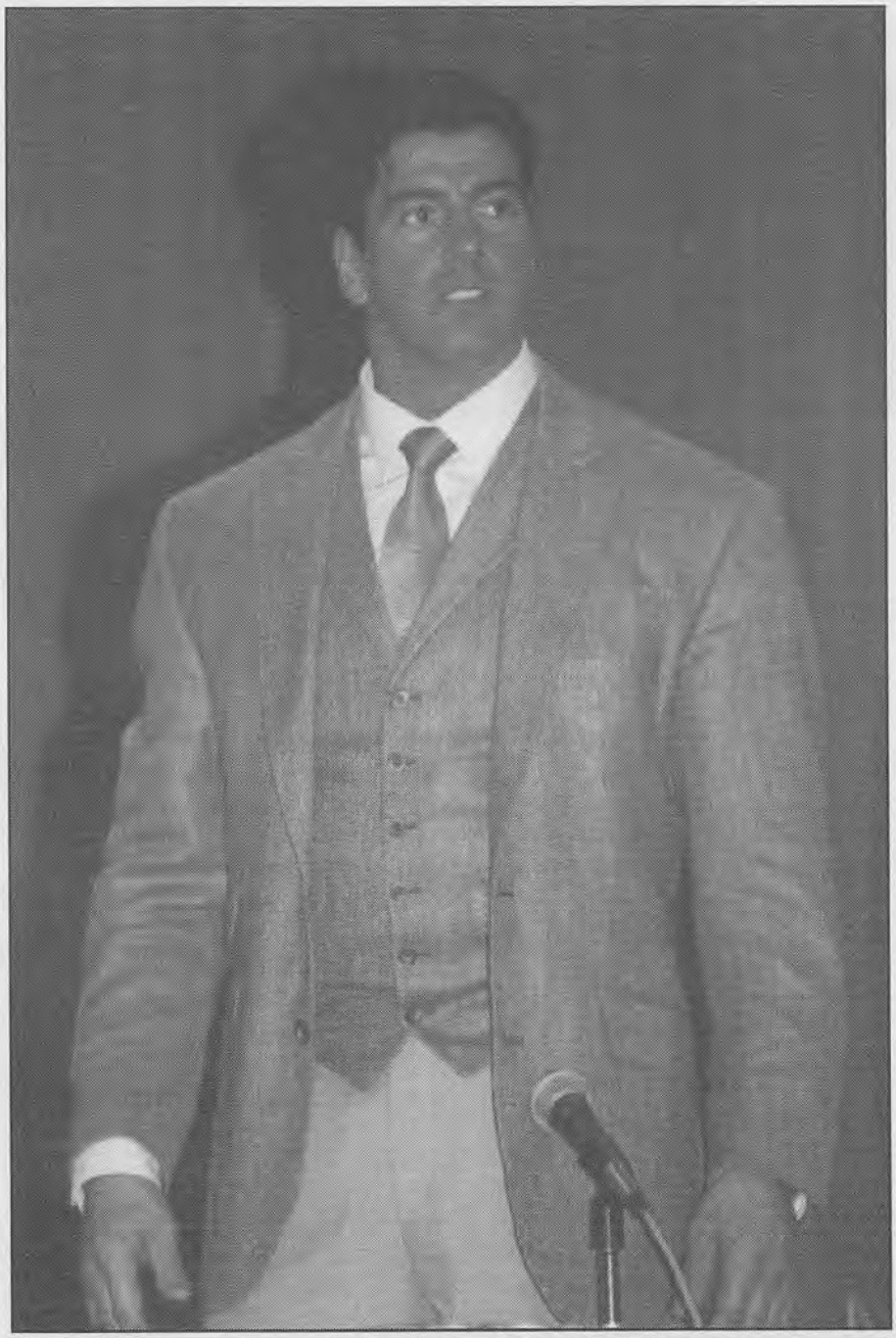
On December 26, 1963, George collapsed in his Hollywood, California apartment, and later that same day, he passed away in Los Angeles General Hospital.

Prior to his death, he owned and operated a tavern in the San Fernando Valley, but sold it shortly before his death. During his wrestling career, he shielded his first wife and two children from the arena spotlight. He divorced his second wife, Cheri Dupre, in 1962. They had a son, and today he would be approximately 34 years old.

Although many wrestlers have claimed to be a relative, or even the original, there was only one true Gorgeous George — George Raymond Wagner. ***NWW***

A Conversation With:

RICK "THE MODEL" MARTEL



In this day and age of boastful battling bullies, Rick "the Model" Martel is one of grappledom's few "beautiful people" who can back up his bragging ways with honest-to-goodness mat skills!

interview by Billie Jessee

NW: How long have you been involved in wrestling, Rick?
RM: It's been about twenty-two years now.
NW: How old were you when you began wrestling?
RM: I began my wrestling career at an early age. I was only sixteen years old when I began wrestling during my summer vacations from school. My brother "Mad Dog" Martel is really the one who got me involved in this sport.

I always wanted to travel the world; I wanted to see all those places that I had only read and dreamed about. For an adventurer like me, professional wrestling was the perfect occupation. I could always be on the go, discover new places, wrestle new opponents, and make new friends. Who could ask for anything more?
NW: Would you say that your brother was a strong influence on your professional wrestling career?
RM: Because he has been very successful in the ring, I would say that my brother Pierre has definitely been a strong influence on my wrestling career. Since he has spent most of his time competing in Puerto Rico and Canada over the past twenty years, many of the fans may not be aware of his talents or his accomplishments in the sport.
NW: When and where were you born?
RM: My birthday is on March 18, 1955, and I was raised in Quebec City, Canada.
NW: Do you have any amateur wrestling background?
RM: Well, I competed in some wrestling meets in high school and college. As I've said earlier, I was

very young getting into the business, and there was very little time for me to gain experience as an amateur; I went that quickly into the professional ranks.

NW: What do you consider to be your strongest points as a wrestler?

RM: My good looks, of course. *[Laughs]* I also know all of the wrestling moves and how to execute them with split-second timing.

NW: Have you wrestled overseas?

RM: I have wrestled pretty much everywhere—Canada, Japan, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Germany, and the United States, of course.

NW: Who has been your toughest wrestling opponent?

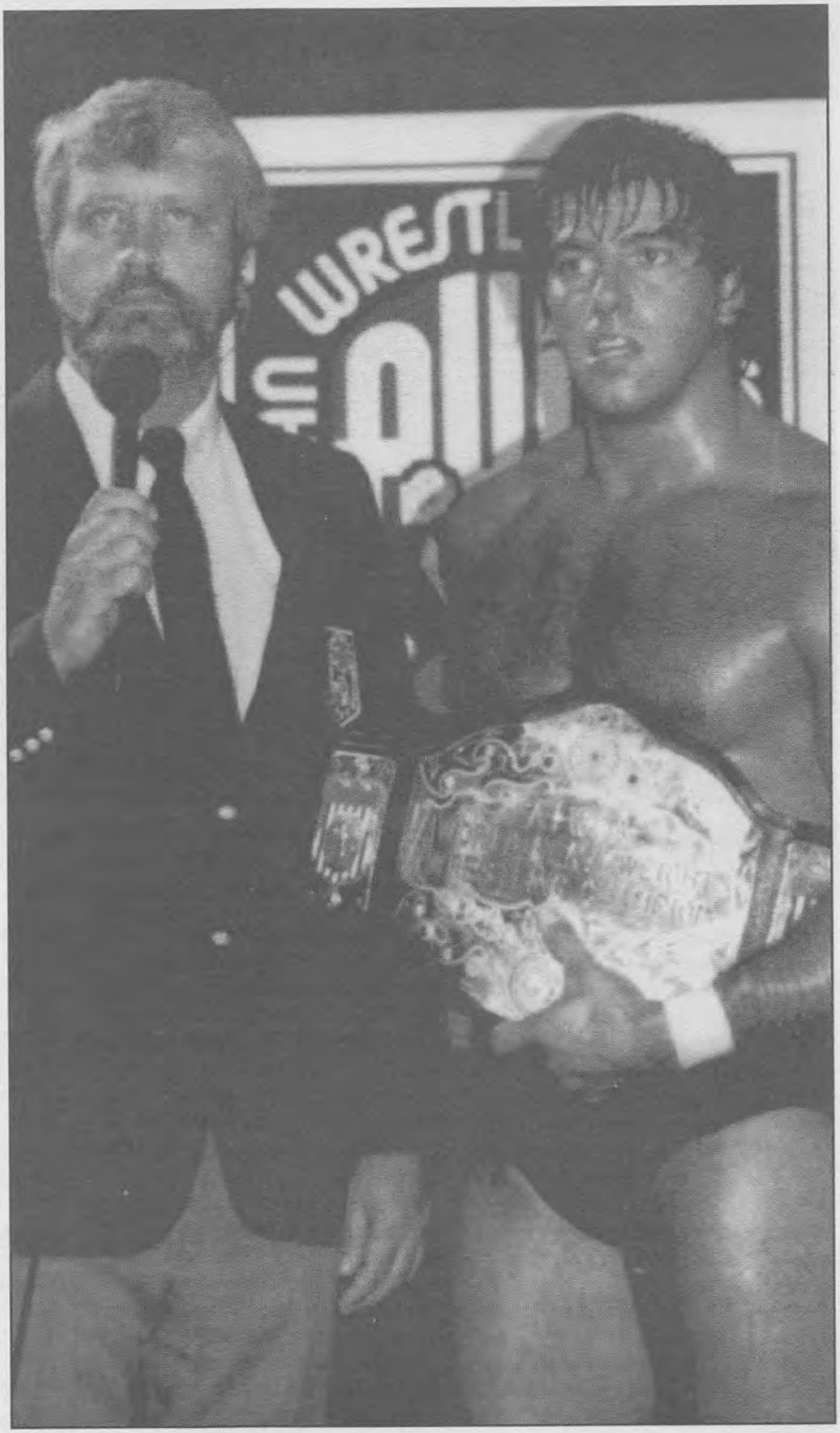
RM: I've wrestled so many great wrestlers that it would be difficult for me to single out just one.

I guess my earliest grudge matches have left a lasting impression on me. I remember defeating King Curtis Iaukea for the New Zealand heavyweight championship during my rookie years. As champion, I also defeated Bugsy McGraw in a loser-leaves-town match.

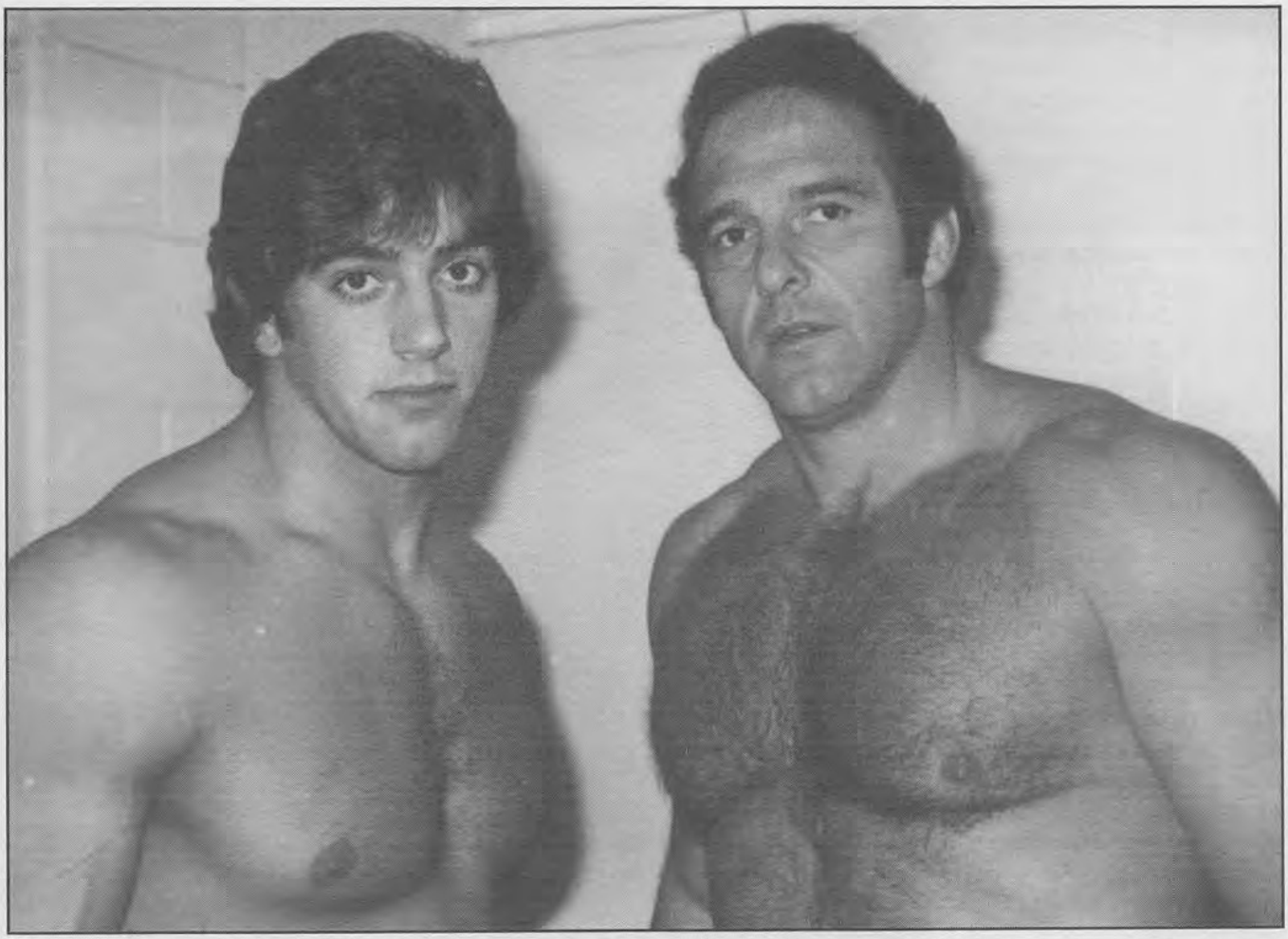
They were two of the biggest and roughest wrestlers of the era, and I was quite proud of myself for coming out on top in those encounters.

NW: How do you always keep yourself in such superb shape?

RM: With the rugged travel schedule I have, it's almost impossible for me to go to the gym on a regular basis. I work out whenever and wherever I can. I'll run up flights of stairs at the hotel, or I will improvise in some fashion. The most important thing is to remain flexible and conditioned. Believe



During his 1984 title reign, Rick brought expanded recognition to the World heavyweight title of the American Wrestling Association.



During his rookie years, the young Rick Martel was fortunate to have a mat mentor like Mark Lewin. They are seen here in a 1972 publicity photo while on tour in New Zealand. photo: Dave Cameron

me, I get enough of a workout inside the ring; but you can never be too prepared, especially against the wrestling monsters of today.

NW: When did you make your pro–wrestling debut?

RM: It was on June 7, 1972 in Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada. I defeated a wrestler by the name of Serge Boné. From there, I went on to compete in Australia and New Zealand for wrestling promoter Steve Rickard, and I have never looked back.

NW: Have you ever wrestled as part of a tag team?

RM: Yes, I have. I have been very successful as both a single and tag-team competitor.

NW: Who were some of your tag-team partners?

RM: My very first championship was in the tag-team division. In 1972, with my partner Larry O'Day, I was one half of the Australian tag-team championship team. Lenny Hurst [King Haku] and I held the North American tag straps in 1974. I've held the Georgia tag titles with both Mr. Wrestling II and Tommy "Wildfire" Rich. "Rowdy" Roddy Piper and I were the Northwest tag champs, and I also held Canadian tag honors with the late Dino Bravo.

I then had a great deal of tag-team success in the World Wrestling Federation. In 1980, Tony Garea and I upset the Wild Samoans for the World tag belts. The next year, Tony and I defeated the Moondogs to regain the gold. In 1987, Tito Santana and I wrestled as the Strike Force; we defeated the Hart Foundation—Bret "the Hitman" Hart & Jim "the Anvil" Neidhart—for the tag straps.

There have been so many great tag-team partners—Tom Zenk, Mark Lewin, King Curtis, who has also been one of my toughest opponents—I have held titles with most of them. I also participated in the Survivor Series tag-team matches in 1987-88-90.

NW: Do you prefer wrestling in singles or tag-team matches?

RM: I enjoy wrestling in one-on-one confrontations. I like to depend upon my own talent and ability.

NW: Have you ever had a wrestling manager?

RM: Yes, I have. I was once managed by Slick in the WWF. I like to handle my own affairs, but a manager can be an asset.

NW: You were wrestling as "The Model" in the WWF at that time. How did this new ring persona come about?

RM: Well, for a short period of time, I really did work as a model; I thought that monicker fit me very well.

In 1982, I was voted wrestling's

sexiest superstar, and in the back of my mind, I always knew I would use that publicity for a new ring style.

I think the time was right for me to experiment with my ring identity, and I have really enjoyed my success as "The Model."

NW: Have you had any serious injuries in the ring?

RM: I've had the typical injuries most wrestlers have—sprained elbows, as well as head, shoulder, and knee injuries.

In 1975, I had a very serious back injury in Florida. I wasn't sure if I would ever wrestle again. That's one of the fears all wrestlers have. Even though I pride myself on staying in top physical condition at all times, everyone has a weak area on their body. You must always be on your guard in wrestling, and I've had my share of injuries.

"Playboy" Buddy Rose injured my arm and neck in Oregon. Mr. Fuji nearly blinded me by throwing salt in my eyes during a WWF tag-team title match in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Stan "the Lariat" Hansen injured my back in a match in Chicago, which later cost me my AWA World heavyweight championship.

NW: Which titles have you held?

RM: Besides the championships that I've mentioned earlier, I've also held the Australian title, the Commonwealth title, the Canadian heavyweight title, the Hawaiian belt, the North American title, and the AWA World title, to name only a few.

NW: How did you feel when you won the AWA World heavyweight championship?

RM: I will never forget the date—May 13, 1984. When I defeated Jumbo Tsuruta for the AWA title, I knew I had finally arrived. I was now in the sports history books, and no one could ever take that away from me.

NW: You've had many unique experiences in regard to World title matches. Would you please tell us about one?

RM: During my AWA title reign, I accepted a unification match with NWA World champion "Nature Boy" Ric Flair. The match took place in Japan, and both championships were on the line. We wrestled for 34 minutes and 31 seconds before the referee counted us both out of the ring.

NW: What do you think of Ric Flair as a wrestler?

RM: You can take nothing away from this man. He has earned his credentials as a world–class athlete, and I am talking about all sports, not just professional wrestling. Flair is tough; he wants to have things his own way, but don't we all? He is very confident and boastful, but he can certainly back it up. This is the important factor that separates true wrestling greats from the cartoon characters.

NW: Early in your career, didn't you receive several title shots against NWA World champion Harley Race?

RM: Yes, I did. When I first pushed forward into a solo career in Australia and New Zealand, Harley Race was on tour defending the World title.

I was very surprised to learn that the promoter had lined up a title match for me. I was very excited and nervous at the same time. You couldn't ask for a greater opportunity than a match with the man who was regarded, at that time, as the best in the business.

In our first encounter, we wrestled to a one-hour draw, and it really built up my confidence. In our return match, he caught me off guard and defeated me with the use of the piledriver, but it was a tremendous learning experience.

Harley Race is one of the all-time great master technicians of the ring. He may not be a flashy wrestler, but he certainly is a very entertaining wrestler to watch. I enjoy watching videotape of Harley's matches; you can see how his mind

"The Model" appears to have little regard for mat mavens, but, deep down, all New Wavers know that he always aims to please!
photo: Sandy DeLuca

Whether competing against saintly scientific competitors or rugged ring ruffians, Martel baffles them all with his mastery of a myriad of magnificent maneuvers.
photo: Michael O'Hara

concentrates on the holds and counterholds.

It was a learning experience to wrestle against him, and it was always fascinating to watch him compete. He did not wrestle his opponents; he engaged them in a form of human chess. Do you get my meaning?

NW: Do you have any other memorable title tales?

RM: When I held the AWA World title, I tried hard to gain greater awareness for this historic championship. I was always looking to step into the ring against other champions like NWA champion Ric Flair.

I remember putting my AWA title up against Bob Backlund, the former WWF World champion, at a match in St. Paul, Minnesota, which is Bob's home state. After 25 minutes, we were both counted out of the ring. He was great then, and he is still great today.

NW: Do you think we'll ever see those unification matches again?

RM: Well, wrestling has changed a great deal. It is very corporate today, you know.Years ago, two promoters could sit down and discuss who would wrestle where.

For the major–league promoters to sit down today, is not as easy as it was before. There are dozens of lawyers involved today, and everyone is afraid of giving the upper hand.

It really is much more difficult today from a business standpoint. I am not saying it can't be done, but it would take a great deal of effort on behalf of both promoters.

NW: Do you have any favorite wrestling moves?

RM: I don't really like to rely on one particular move. I enjoy using the Boston crab to get the job done, but I am very partial to flashy moves, such as the dropkick, the sunset flip, the flying body press, and the slingshot from outside of the ring. I try to give the fans something with a little excitement to it. I think they appreciate it when a wrestler provides that extra effort.

NW: What do you think it takes to be a winner in the ring?

RM: To be a winner takes good training and having the right attitude in the ring. Never give up!

This applies to everything you do, not just the sport of professional wrestling. You must become the master of your profession.

NW: What do you enjoy doing when you're not wrestling?

RM: I enjoy tennis, and I love skating, hockey, and football. I also like to go horseback riding and swimming.

Whenever the opportunity presents itself, I like to get away from the action and spend time with nature. I like to walk or hike in the country on a beautiful, clear afternoon, and spend the day alone with my thoughts.

NW: What is your family like?

RM: My father died when I was only seven months old. In 1978, my brother Michel died in the ring after Ox Baker gave him a heart punch. It was a most unfortunate accident. I also have other brothers and sisters who are not involved in the mat sport.

We are a close, loving family, and I always try to make them proud of me. Regardless if the fans are cheering me or booing me, I try my very best. I always want my family members to know that their respect is important to me.

NW: What do you think the future holds for Rick "The Model" Martel?

RM: I'm always looking to expand into new territories. As of late, I've been spending a great deal of time on the independent circuit, and I've had some limited bookings with the WWF. I think I have the best of both worlds.

I'd like to expand further into the international arenas, such as Japan and Europe. I love to travel, and the level of competition on the international level is currently at an all-time high. I'd like to test my ability against the very best the world has to offer, which means going well beyond the North American wrestling circuits.

NW: Thank you, Rick, for this interview. We wish you good luck and continued success in your wrestling career. You are truly a role "model" for all rising rookie stars as well as your devoted diehard fans.

RM: Thank you. ***NWW***

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Weird WRESTLING *Tales*

JERRY "THE KING" LAWLER

More Listings of Wrestling's Most Celebrated World Heavyweight Champion

story by Michael O'Hara • photos by Jerry Wilson

IN OUR LAST ISSUE, WE began compiling Jerry "the King" Lawler's World heavyweight title reigns, primarily, in the Memphis, Tennessee wrestling circuit of the USWA. With the help of our fellow ***New Wavers***, we discovered that Jerry had garnered World title honors on seventeen separate occasions!

The compilation continues this issue with additional title victories and defeats that are sure to shock you right out of your wrestling boots—Here we go!

5/3/93 Memphis, Tennessee: Papa Shango (Charles Wright) defeated Jerry Lawler for the USWA Unified World title.

*Weeks later, "the Rocket" Owen Hart defeated Papa Shango for the championship.

7/5/93 Memphis: Lawler defeated Owen Hart for an 18th title reign.

9/13/93 Memphis: Tatanka (Chris Chavis) defeated Lawler.

9/20/93 Memphis: Lawler pinned Tatanka for a 19th title reign.

10/4/93 Memphis: Unified champion Lawler defeated Randy "Macho Man" Savage via disqualification. (The belt was held up pending the decision of a return match scheduled the following week.)

10/11/93 Memphis: Randy Savage (Vince McMahon Jr. in Randy's corner) defeated Lawler for the vacant title.

*The talent exchange between the WWF and the USWA briefly came to a halt at this time. As a direct result, Randy Savage was stripped

Lawler is very proud of the accomplishments of his bombastic battling boy — the heir apparent to the King's crown — Brian Christopher!

of the belt for failure to defend the championship within the time period designated by the USWA.

Date Unknown-Memphis: Lawler regained the gold for a 20th title reign—opponent unknown.

11/22/93 Memphis: Jeff Jarrett defeated Jerry Lawler for the title.

The King's Career in a Nutshell

After a shaky start in the grappling game in the 1970s (he lost 81 consecutive matches as a rookie), Jerry Lawler kicked and slammed his way up the ladder into main-event superstardom. At the same time, he used his innate business sense to garner a full partnership with Jerry Jarrett, the regional wrestling promoter of Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Indiana.

When considering his dominant main-event position in the USWA for close to twenty years, Lawler probably drew more money than any other wrestling star. Although such athletes as Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair achieved greater national attention during the mid-1980s, their consistent drawing power has never been accurately determined. Most NWA/WCW and WWF events were booked on a monthly basis, but Jerry was filling the Mid-South Coliseum every Monday night, as well as filling other USWA venues WEEKLY!

He is a gifted artist, who dreamed of an art career with the famed Hallmark Greeting Card Company. He ran a comic strip in pro-wrestling magazines during the 1970s called The Patriot. His artwork, unique contests, and quizzes have graced the pages of the USWA programs for over 15 years.

In 1982, he attained national notoriety when a full-scale donnybrook erupted on the *Late Night with David Letterman* television program. Comedian Andy Kaufman threw coffee on "the King." Lawler responded by slapping Andy out of his chair. The two eventually took it into the squared circle in Memphis, Tennessee. Lawler applied a piledriver on the 180-pound performer, causing a severe neck injury.

Personal Notes: A Memphis State University Graduate • Married twice, currently single • Both sons currently wrestling under the names of Brian Christopher and Kevin Christian • His wrestling mentor was "the Fabulous" Jackie Fargo.

2/20/93 Memphis: Lawler pinned "Double J" Jeff Jarrett to garner his 21st Unified World title reign.

1/31/94 Memphis: "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert defeated Lawler for the gold strap.

2/7/94 Memphis: Lawler regained the title from "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert to begin a 22nd title reign.

2/14/94 Memphis: Eddie Gilbert regained the title from Lawler.

3/16/94 Senatobia, Missouri: Lawler pinned Eddie Gilbert to win the Unified championship for a 23rd time.

Date Unknown-Memphis: The Dream Machine (Troy Graham) upset Lawler for the USWA Unified strap.

★☆★

As we conclude our *Weird Wrestling Tales Special Feature*, we find Jerry Lawler is truly "the King of Wrestling" – with a whopping 23 World title reigns!

Are there more undocumented World heavyweight title reigns lurking out there? If you can help us fill in any possible blank spots in our chronological efforts, please drop us a line with your historic tidbits. Thanks, ***New Waver!*** ***NWW***

RASSLE RAP

JOHNNY B. BADD

Shaking, Rattling, and Rolling to the Very Top Rung of Wrestling Contention!

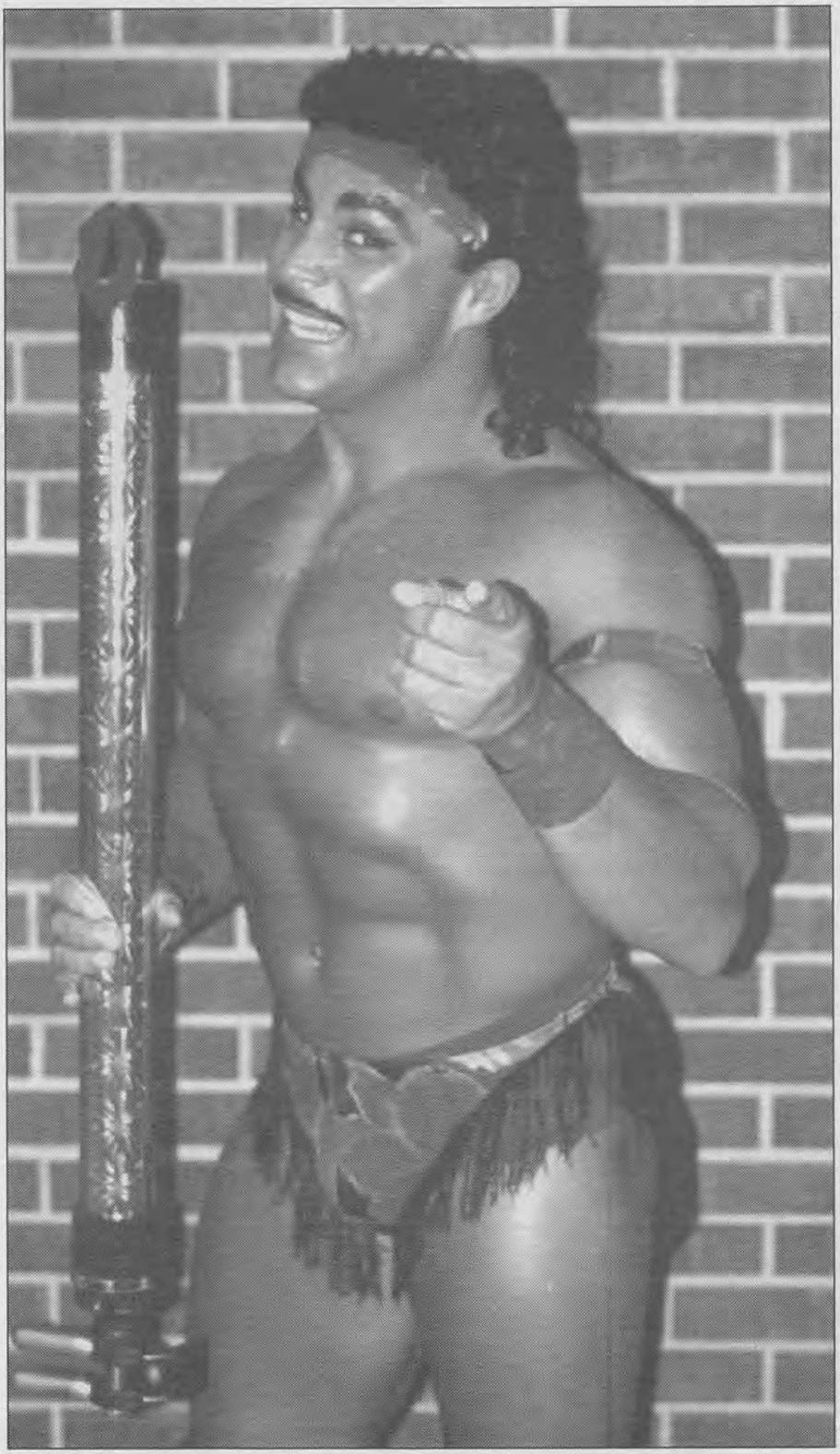
interview by Jerry Wilson

NW: JOHNNY, WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO GET INTO PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING?

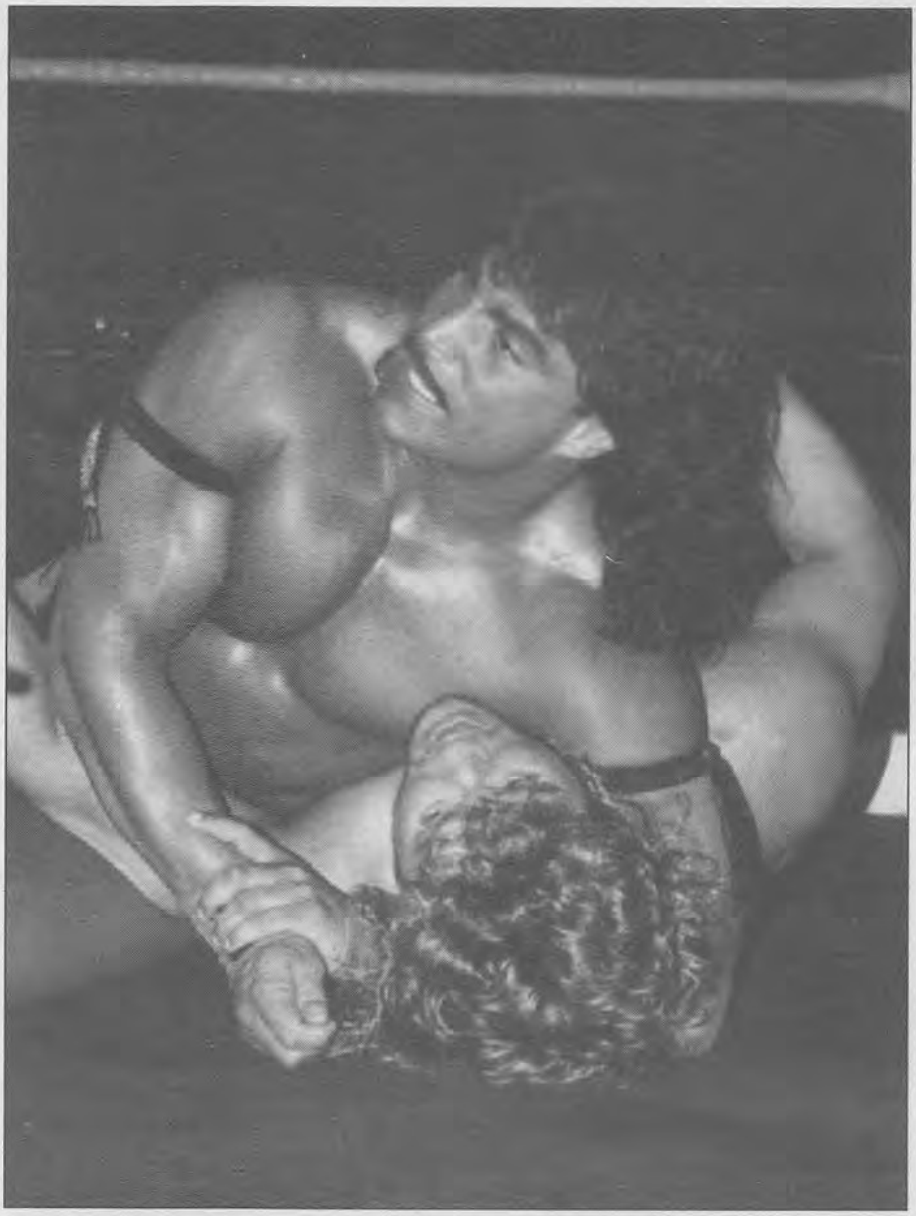
JB: At one time, my original career goal was to be a professional boxer. I was a member of the U.S. boxing team in 1981, as well as a five-time New York State Golden Gloves Champion. I had a tremendous run in the sport, which included a win over "Razor" Ruddock.

Then, at the age of 28, I decided to retire from the boxing ring. I moved away from the sports arena and stopped competing. I started a business building swimming pools in the state of Florida, but I really missed the limelight of boxing. I was looking for a new challenge, and I also wanted to be in the limelight again, so I gave professional wrestling a shot.

NW: Where and who trained you?



With his sights set on the United States heavyweight crown, Johnny B. Badd — the self-proclaimed prettiest man in World Championship Wrestling — is ready to take his rightful place as one of the shining supernovas of the squared circle. He's fast, fit, and flamboyant. He's the greatest, and if you don't believe us — just ask Johnny B. himself!



SCIENTIFIC STRUGGLE: Johnny clipped "Flying" Brian's wings with a side-headlock during this energetic encounter. photo: Jerry Wilson

JB: I was trained by Boris Malenko—who is the legendary master of the Russian Chain Match—at his training facility in Tampa, Florida.
NW: Since you were a boxer before entering wrestling, was there a transition period for you when going from boxing to wrestling?
JB: It was very difficult at first; however, when you want something bad enough, you just won't quit. My motto is "If you believe, you can achieve."
NW: What happened after training at Malenko's?
JB: Well, since I look a little like the singer Little Richard, I was discovered by Dusty Rhodes, "the American Dream." Now I'm living the American dream.
NW: How important is training in professional wrestling?
JB: Wrestling is the most physically demanding sport that I have ever participated in. I'm six feet tall, and I weigh 235 pounds, but nothing tests you to your physical limits like this wonderful sport. You have to be in great shape for wrestling, so training is very important.

I'm also a big believer in qualified training for a career in professional wrestling. I know of many athletes who have come into the sport without any actual preparation for ring competition, and it doesn't always work out for them. They leave themselves wide open for injury and potentially life-threatening situations. Once you step between those ropes, you must absolutely know what you're doing. That's why an intensive training program with a reputable, ring veteran is mandatory!
NW: Do you remember your first wrestling match?
JB: Yes, it was in January 1991 for Suncoast promotions in Venice, Florida. I then started wrestling with WCW in April 1991.
NW: Who was your first wrestling opponent?
JB: My first opponent was Robbie Idol. I started out on the right foot with a decisive victory over him, and I've been lookin' pretty ever since.
NW: What has been your greatest wrestling victory thus far?
JB: Oh, my, I can't pick just one. My victories over Cactus Jack, Chris Benoit, and that ugly Maxx Payne have been the most thrilling for me so far.
NW: Who have been your toughest foes in the ring?
JB: I would have to say that my feuds with Cactus Jack and Maxx Payne were tough. My matches against "Ravishing" Rick Rude and "Stunning" Steve Austin rank right up there, too.
NW: Have you held any belts yet?
JB: No, not yet. I'm still just getting started, but I hope to win many belts in my wrestling career. I have my sights set on a number of top WCW championships. With some hard work and determination, I'll be sitting pretty!
NW: Can you give us some insight as to what specific titles you're aiming for?
JB: Well, I've made it clear to "Stunning" Steve Austin that the United States championship would look beautiful around my pretty waist. I've had a few very close

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?
Johnny put the finishing touches on Maxx Payne during their lengthy feud.
photo: Jerry Wilson

calls with Austin over the U.S. strap, and I feel my chances are very good.

I am scheduled for a number of return U.S. title matches at this point in time, so, chances are, by the time your readers see this, I will have made my dream become a reality. Keep your fingers crossed for me!

NW: We certainly will, Johnny. I'm sure most WCW wrestling fans are in your corner.

Speaking of WCW, you started out in the promotion as a bad guy, and you had Teddy Long as your manager. Do you miss not having a manager?

JB: Not at all. I don't mean to be disrespectful to Teddy Long in any way. We had a nice run, and he has done a fine job with athletes like Marcus Alexander Bagwell and 2 Cold Scorpio, but I like being in control of my own career, making my own decisions. Besides, now I have thousands upon thousands of cheering fans in my corner. They're all I'll ever need.

NW: Even before you turned from heel to hero, you received a sizable amount of cheers from the audience. Do you think that the fans could sense your true personality in the ring?

JB: Yes, I do. I love what I do in the ring, and people can sense that. I feel the fans enjoy seeing a wrestler having fun doing what he loves to do. I have always responded to the fans. They loved me in spite of my actions, and, eventually, I came around to their way of thinking. In the end, things always turn out the way they should.

NW: What has been your greatest moment in wrestling?

JB: Because of my TV exposure through pro wrestling, my biggest moments have been the times I have spent with terminally ill children and the less fortunate.

NW: Since you really do resemble the legendary singer Little Richard, have people ever commented on this when you're away from the ring?

JB: I once went into a nursing home to visit some elderly folks, and they were very excited to see me. One of the ladies asked me to sing "Tutti-Frutti," and I realized then — they thought I was Little Richard, so I sang the song anyway.

NW: Where are you from?

JB: Well, I was born in Macon, Georgia, but I grew up in Syracuse, New York. I now reside in Atlanta, Georgia.

NW: What were you like as a kid?

JB: I was a tough little kid. I grew up in a rough neighborhood, and I had to start fighting at an early age. That's why I turned my attention to boxing.

NW: Where have you wrestled?

JB: I have wrestled all over the United States, and I have wrestled in the United Kingdom many times as part of WCW's frequent tours of Europe. I really love wrestling overseas.

NW: Have you wrestled in Japan?

JB: I haven't been to Japan yet, but I'm looking forward to wrestling there in the future. The competition is very exciting in Japan.

WCW has been negotiating with promoters from all over the world, and you will be seeing a greater exhange of international talent in the months to come. Recently, we've seen "Lord" Steven Regal from England and the Great Muta from Japan in WCW rings. You'll definitely be seeing the top WCW superstars around the world. My message to the readers is—keep looking for Johnny B., because I'm coming to your area very soon!

Can you imagine Johnny B. Badd in Japan? My style would be just

perfect for the Japanese rings—I'm fast and high-flying. I can definitely see myself wearing one of my beautiful boas and matching gold lamé trunks and boots. Oh, my—I'll be the prettiest man in the Far East—to say the least!

NW: Do you think your looks help you or hurt you in the ring?

JB: I think that my pretty face has opened the door for me to walk through, but once I step into the ring, it doesn't win any matches for me. In the beginning, I suppose, some of my opponents underestimated me. How could anyone be so pretty and also be so darn tough? That's me, baby!

NW: You're on the road most of the time. What has your recent schedule been like? How does this affect your family life?

JB: I'm on the road approximately 200-250 days a year. When you're on the road so much, it's very difficult to carry on a relationship. Many wrestlers do have families, and it's rough on them. Fortunately, I'm just footloose and fancy free.

NW: So, you aren't married then?

JB: No, I'm still single.

NW: Who have been your greatest influences?

JB: There have been many people who have helped me in wrestling and in life, but I give all my thanks to God. He gave me a talent that I love and which allows me to reach so many beautiful people.

NW: Besides Little Richard's music, what other kinds of music do you listen to?

JB: I like all kinds of music, but I love to relax to love songs.

NW: How did you feel about working for Bill Watts in WCW?

JB: Well, it was a very tense atmosphere because there were so many changes going on.

NW: Do you feel the working environment in WCW is better since the release of Bill Watts?

JB: I believe that wrestling is in a transitional period everywhere. WCW is on the road to recovery. We have tapings at MGM Studios in Disney World. Wrestling is being presented to new audiences. We are definitely in a growth stage.

The working atmosphere is less tense with the new management. In general, the wrestling and the presentation of the WCW product is getting better.

I'm under contract with WCW, so I don't have to worry whether Ted Turner ever goes broke. If he ever needs money, he can always borrow some from his wife Jane Fonda! I think most of the wrestlers feel that they are working in a stable environment, and it helps our morale.

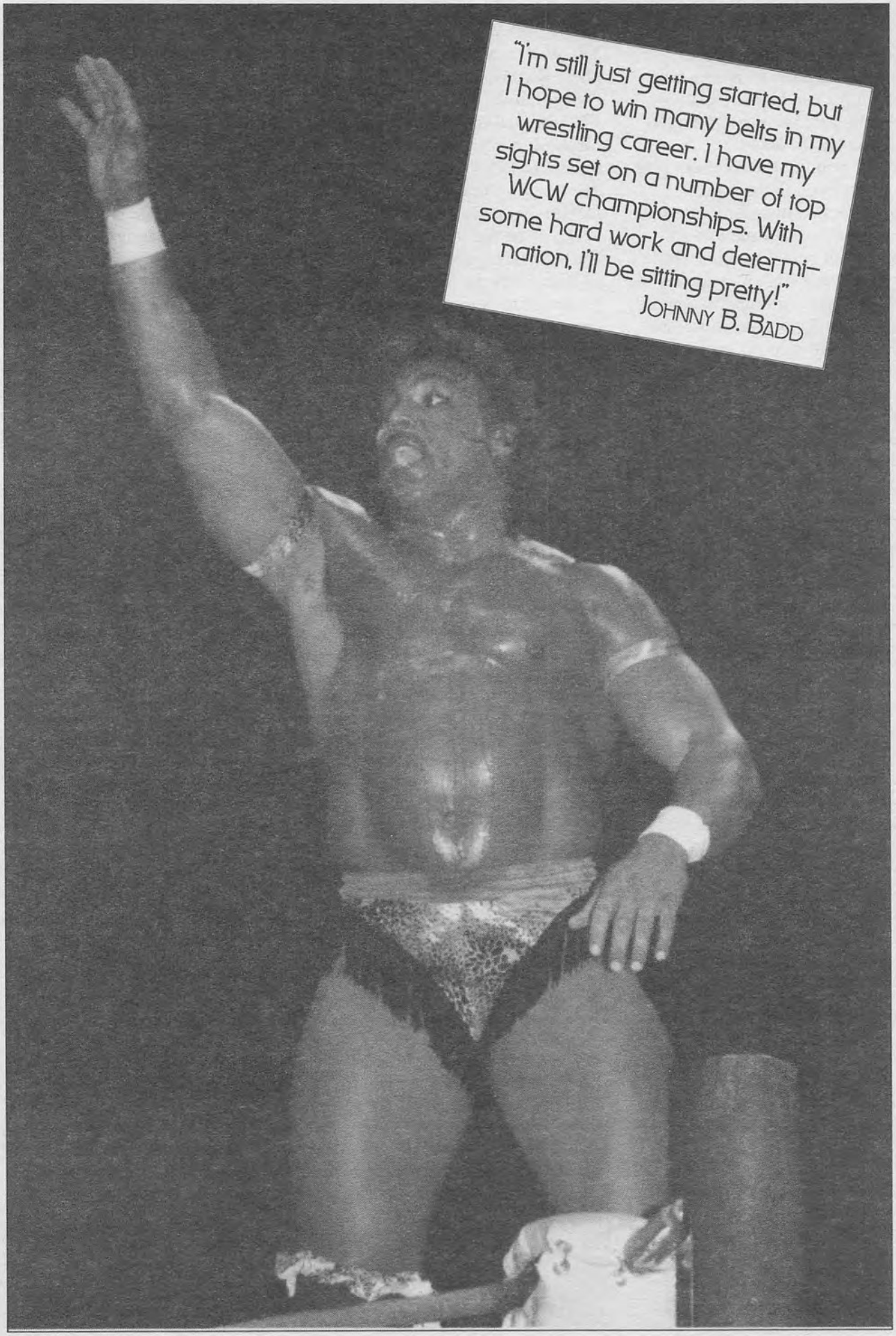
NW: What would you like to see happen to wrestling in the future?

JB: Well, I love what I do, and I love all the fans. I would like to see wrestling as big as it was in the 1980s, or even bigger, and I want to be a big part of that.

NW: Who designs your costumes?

JB: I have my own special designer who works exclusively on my costumes. When it comes to designing

A SMILE IS HIS UMBRELLA
Although "the Badd Man" has experienced his fair share of cloudy days, he continues to use his postive mental attitude in search of a silver lining — and championship gold!
photo: Jerry Wilson


"I'm still just getting started, but I hope to win many belts in my wrestling career. I have my sights set on a number of top WCW championships. With some hard work and determination, I'll be sitting pretty!"
JOHNNY B. BADD

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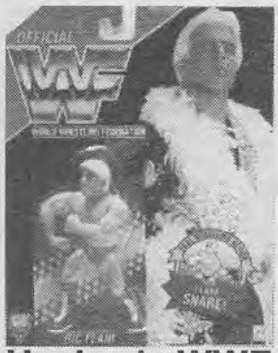

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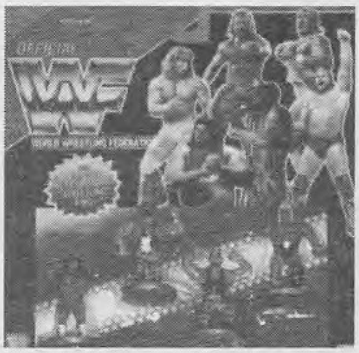

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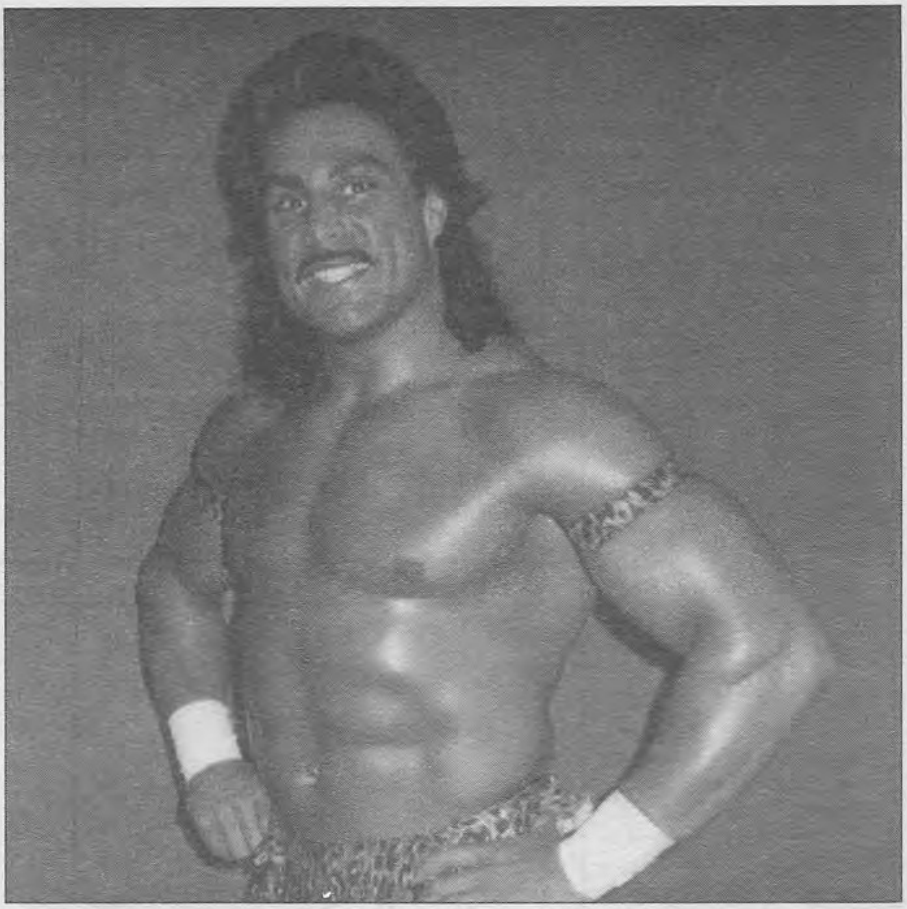


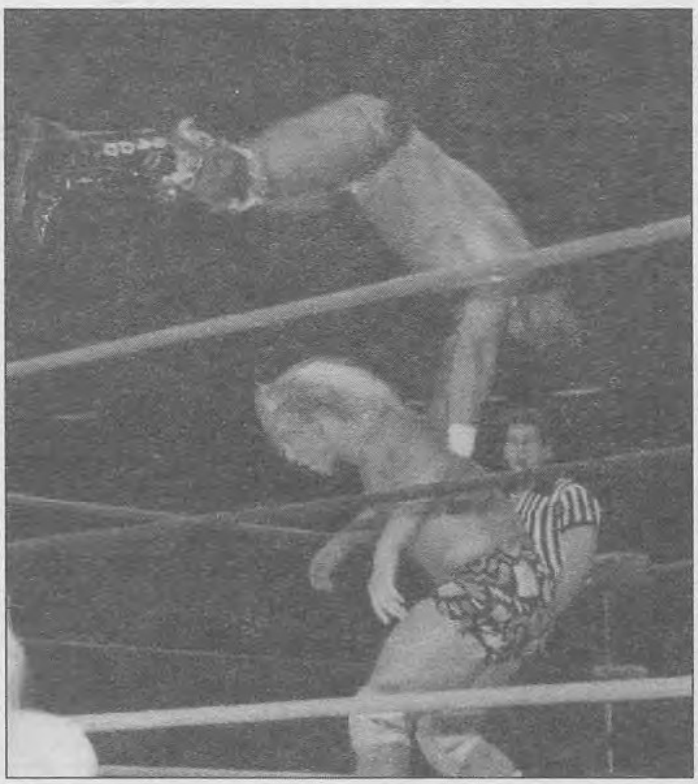
If hard work and devotion to one's profession have any merit, Johnny B. Badd will soon make his mark in the wrestling world. photo: Ron McDowell

my costumes, I work hand in hand with the designer. I have about 85 costumes now. I seldom ever wear anything twice in the ring.

NW: What do you do when you're not wrestling?

JB: When I'm not on the road, which is very rare, I just like to stay at home and relax. I spend most of my free time talking to the kids at schools. I also like to visit hospitals and nursing homes, too.

Wherever I travel, I speak with young people and organizations. In London, I had a great time with the kids at St. Monica's Boxing Club. It's the same wherever I go. People are people. All they need is a little encouragement and a kind word. My family instilled this in me, and I try to pass this on to my fans. My sister Jodi does work with an Animal Hospital in Chittenango and volunteers at the Wanderer's Rest.



The gift is in the giving. Do what you can for someone else, and I guarantee that you'll feel much better. We all have to keep passing the torch of kindness; otherwise, the flame will go out.

NW: Do you enjoy doing charity work?

JB: As a WCW wrestler, I spend a great deal of time with various charities. God has blessed me in such a way that I believe I have a responsibility to give something back to these courageous kids. If it weren't for the fans, especially the kids, there would be no such thing as professional wrestling.

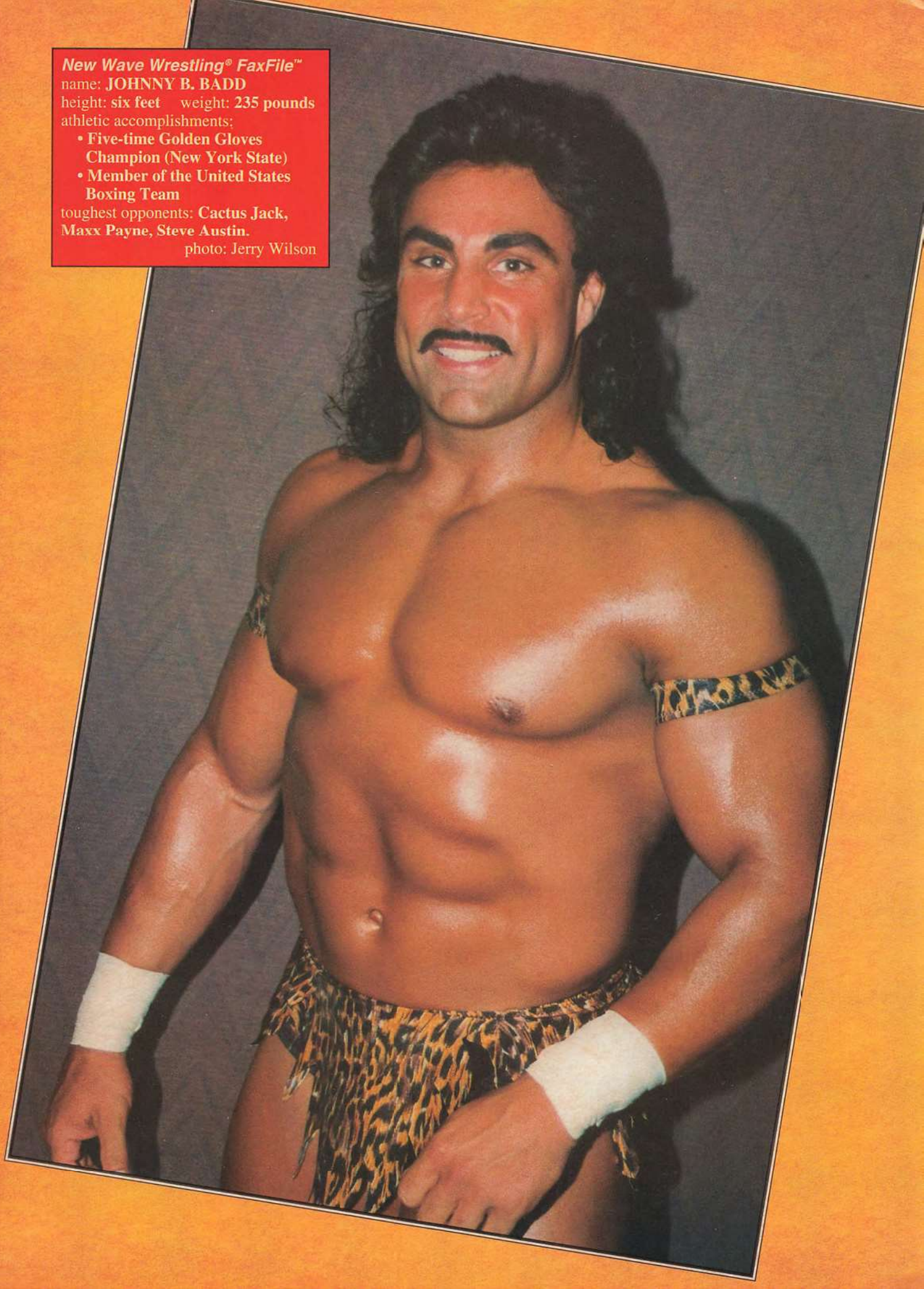
I go to housing projects and talk with the kids there. I try to be a positive role model. I try to show them how to live a clean life. It's sad that drugs are so prevalent today. People have to take their communities and neighborhoods back from the drug dealers!

One of the great things about being a WCW wrestler is that I'm able to reach out to children of all ages. I talk to them about the importance of an education, of staying in school, and of staying off drugs. Remember, drugs are not cool! I always say, "Stay clean, if you know what I mean, because Johnny B. Badd loves ya, baby!"

NW: Thanks for talking with us, Johnny. No one has worked harder at being a true wrestling hero than you. On behalf of everyone here at ***New Wave Wrestling***, I wish you the very best.

JB: Thank you, it's been my pleasure. Good luck to you and the fans.

You know, I might be the prettiest man in wrestling, but the wrestling fans are the most beautiful people in the whole, wide world! ***NWW***



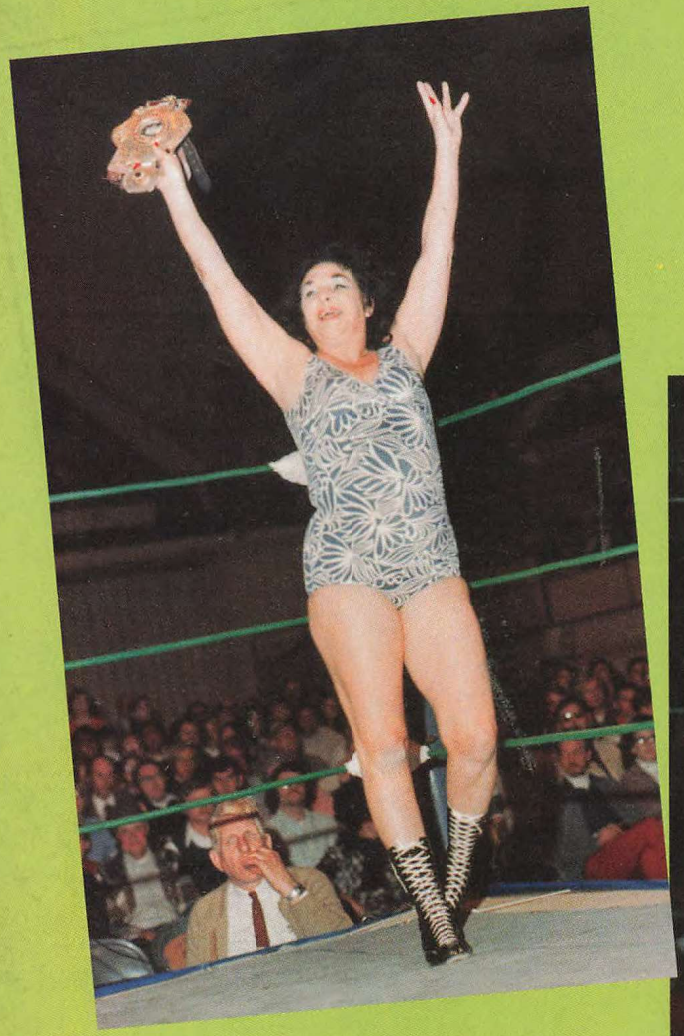
New Wave Wrestling® FaxFile™
name: **JOHNNY B. BADD**
height: **six feet** weight: **235 pounds**
athletic accomplishments:
- **Five-time Golden Gloves Champion (New York State)**
- **Member of the United States Boxing Team**

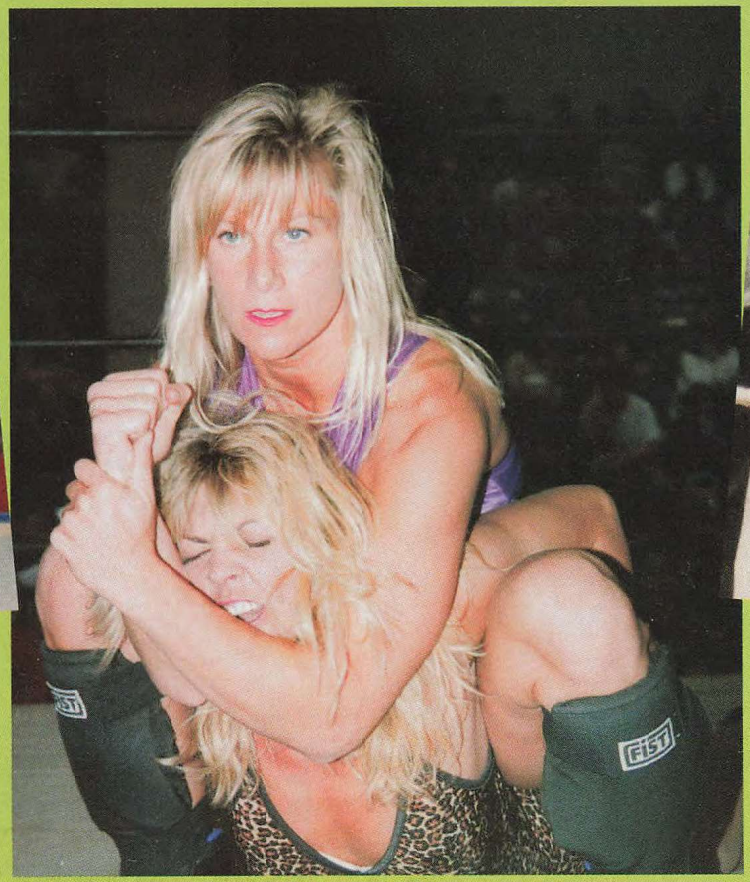
toughest opponents: **Cactus Jack, Maxx Payne, Steve Austin.**
photo: Jerry Wilson

IN PRAISE OF BOLDER WOMEN

MOOLAH

SHERRI





ALUNDRA

BLAYZE

THE HISTORY OF THE WOMEN'S WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

1915: Cora Livingston competed on what was considered "the carnival circuit." She defended her "World Champion Female Wrestler" belt against patrons in the audience.
1930s: Clara Mortenson appeared on pro-wrestling cards billed as the World champion.
Jan. 28, 1937 Chattanooga, Tennessee: Mildred Burke (Mildred Bliss) was the winner of a tournament and she was crowned World's Female champion.
February 11, 1937 Chattanooga, Tennessee: Clara Mortenson defeated Mildred Burke.
1937: Mildred Burke regained the championship.
Aug. 20, 1954 Atlanta, Georgia: June Byers defeated Mildred Burke. (The match was stopped by the commission. Burke was stripped of the title, and it was awarded to Byers.)
Sept. 18, 1956 Baltimore, Maryland: "Slave Girl" Moolah won a one-night tournament and the World's Women's title.
Sept. 17, 1966 Seattle, WA: Betty Boucher defeated Moolah.
1966: Moolah (Lillian Ellison) regained the World title.
1984: The World Wrestling Federation and the National Wrestling Alliance discontinued their talent-exchange relationship. The NWA Women's title was abandoned. Moolah continued to reign as WWF Women's champion.
July 23, 1984: New York City, New York: Wendi Richter defeated The Fabulous Moolah.
February 18, 1985 NYC, NY: Lailani Kai defeated Richter.
March 31, 1985 NYC, NY (Wrestlemania I): Wendi Richter defeated Lailani Kai to regain the title.
November 25, 1985 NYC, NY: The Masked Spider Lady (Moolah) defeated Wendi Richter.
1986: Velvet McIntyre defeated Fabulous Moolah.
Fabulous Moolah defeated Velvet McIntyre.
Velvet McIntyre defeated Fabulous Moolah.
Fabulous Moolah defeated Velvet McIntyre.
July 24, 1987 Houston, Texas: "Sensational" Sherri Martel defeated Fabulous Moolah.
July 10, 1988 Paris, France: Rockin' Robin defeated Martel.
1988–1989: The NWA reinstated the Women's title and recognized Misty Blue as their World champion.
1989: THE NWA WOMEN'S TITLE WAS ABANDONED.
August, 1990 Atlanta, Georgia: Susan Sexton was awarded the NWA/WCW Women's championship.
September, 1990 Ashville, North Carolina: Bambi was awarded the NWA/WCW Women's championship.
1990: THE NWA/WCW WOMEN'S TITLE WAS ABANDONED.
1990: THE WWF WOMEN'S TITLE WAS ABANDONED.
Dec. 13, 1993 Poughkeepsie, NY: Alundra Blayze (Deborah Miceli) defeated Heidi Lee Morgan in the final round of a tournament to capture the vacant WWF Women's title.

New Wave Wrestling® FaxFile™
ring name: ROSEBUD
real name: Dawn Francis
trained by: "Killer" Kowalski
hobbies: bodybuilding & gymnastics
current goal: To win the IWF Ladies title from Brittany Brown.
photo: Sandy DeLuca

Warrior Woman

ROSEBUD

A Rasslin' Rose By Any Other Name...

WITH A FLAIR FOR THE FANTASTIC AND GYMNASTIC, THIS BOMBASTIC BEAUTY HAS MESMERIZED HER ADORING FANS IN THE NEW ENGLAND AREA. BEING WELL SKILLED IN THE WOMANLY ART OF SELF-DEFENSE, THE GORGEOUS GRAPPLIN' GRADUATE FROM THE KILLER KOWALSKI SCHOOL OF WRESTLING HAS SET HER SIGHTS ON THE TOP LAURELS IN HER CHOSEN PROFESSION. SHE IS CHARLES FOSTER KANE'S FAVORITE GRAPPLERETTE – ROSEBUD!

interview by Sandy DeLuca

NW: ROSEBUD, WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR EARLY TRAINING?
RB: I trained at Killer Kowalski's school of professional wrestling in Massachusetts. On the first day that I walked into the school, I had such an incredible feeling. The girls and guys train together, and it's really a great experience, let me tell you. The room is filled with so much high energy.

I was only eighteen years old at the time, so I was really nervous at first. Walter "Killer" Kowalski is a legend in the wrestling profession, and I was a little intimidated when I first met him.

Walter is a giant of a man—in physical stature as well as in his accomplishments in our sport! He's very, very tough, but I think he's the best trainer. I learned so much from him, and I am still learning from him to this day. He uses the best teaching methods around.

It is not that unusual to see veteran wrestlers returning to class in order to learn from the master. Kowalski instills this in all of his students. They must continue to evolve as athletes. Even wrestlers who've graduated from Kowalski's course ten years ago, still come back to explore new ideas and holds. It's a very stimulating as well as educational environment.
NW: What inspired you to become a wrestler?
RB: Initially, I wanted to be a professional bodybuilder, but I soon discovered that I didn't have the drive to focus in that particular direction. When I realized that

There is certainly no love lost between IWF Ladies Champion Brittany Brown and the number-one ranking contender, Rosebud.

weightlifting was not for me, I checked out some other alternatives, and wrestling happened to be one of them.

I have always loved professional wrestling; therefore, it was an easy decision for me to make. I think it is the most underrated sport of all time. It has no off-season, and it is promoted throughout the free world. No other sport has such universal appeal by both the athletes and the fans. We've only seen just the tip of the iceberg in regard to wrestling's growing popularity.

Within the next few years, you will see wrestling overtake many established sports in popularity. It appeals to both men and women of all ages, and from every ethnic background. You couldn't find a more international sport than professional wrestling.

NW: Have you basically wrestled in the New England area?

RB: Mostly, New England has been my main base of operation, but I've worked other places. I have been to Peru, for example. I also did some work for the LPWA, and I traveled with them for some time. Basically, I plan to stay in the New England area right now, but since wrestling is such an unpredictable field, that could change drastically tomorrow!

NW: What is your relationship with wrestler Brittany Brown?

RB: We have been going at each other for over four years now. My sights are pretty much set on her International Wrestling Federation championship. I feel I deserve the gold belt that she currently wears around her waist, and I plan to wear it sooner or later.

Brittany's tried to lose me in the shuffle, but I don't give up so easy, I can assure you of that. I will relentlessly keep after her until my goal is accomplished.

NW: How do you plan to obtain this title?

RB: If I go in there and use my talents, work to the best of my ability, and stay in good shape, I should have no problem winning the championship title.

The champion has nothing to prove, so I just have to be a little bit quicker, a little bit stronger, and a little more hungrier for victory than Brittany. She's been to the top rung of the IWF ladder, and my incentive is to knock her off her perch. It's one thing getting to the top, but it's a whole different situation staying there.

NW: Do you train regularly?

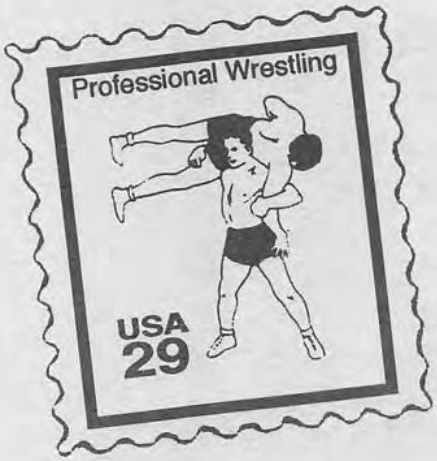
RB: Yes, it is an absolute requirement! I go to Kowalski's school at least twice a week to keep my ring skills at their apex; there is always someone inventing a new hold or improving upon an old one.

I also go to the gym every chance I get. I work out with weights and do aerobic exercises to stay in good shape. I am constantly developing my skills.

NW: What was your first wrestling match like?

RB: My first match was against Black Venus, and I was scared to death! Going in there at only nineteen years of age, I really had no idea what to expect. Classroom instruction is one thing, but once you enter the ring professionally, it becomes a matter of reputation and money, so anything goes! I just did my best, and it turned out much

Isn't it time the United States Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp acknowledging the unsung heroes of sports entertainment?



The United States Postal Service has honored famous Americans and American genres from rock 'n' roll stars to famous Hollywood comedians, but nothing is more indefinably American than professional wrestling. It's grandiose and bigger than life, with a tried-and-true tradition of good emerging triumphant over evil. Ever since William Muldoon was recognized as the first American World Heavyweight Wrestling Champion back in 1880, fans have thrilled to the sheer joy and excitement that can only be found within the grappling game's squared circle.

We at ***New Wave Wrestling*** are making a concerted effort, as the archeologists of professional wrestling's faded history, to perpetuate the undocumented past of our beloved sport, but we need your help. We encourage every ***New Waver*** to fill out the ballot below, and return it to us at your earliest convenience. Please make additional photocopies and pass them on to your friends. We need **THOUSANDS** of responses, so that we can petition the Postmaster General of the United States.

It's going to be a tough job, and it's going to take a great deal of work, but with the help and support of wrestling fans from around the world, coming together for one, unified cause, we can do it! We need everyone's help, including all our ***New Wavers*** from overseas!

Please fill out the ballot below. THANKS!

Mike O'Hara & the Gang at NWW HQ

OFFICIAL PETITION

Please return your ballot to:
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Long Island City, NY 11103

Dear Postmaster General,

I am placing my petition, along with other fellow mat enthusiasts, to request a stamp commemorating professional wrestling. In 1995, the grappling game will be celebrating its 115th year in the United States. It certainly would be a fitting tribute to the countless thousands of hardworking men and women who have competed within the squared circle, and who have brought so much joy to their admiring fans of all ages for decades. Please consider our petition. Thank you.

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ROSEBUD

better than I anticipated.
NW: What sort of moves do you use in the ring?
RB: I use many gymnastic moves. I love backbends, jumping off the ropes, and other high-risk moves.
NW: Many people have commented on your excellent gymnastic skills. You enjoy it, don't you?
RB: It comes easy to me. I'm good at these moves because I'm comfortable doing them. There is a certain amount of fear in doing elaborate maneuvers. Some people can't get beyond their fears, but I have been able to overcome these obstacles. If you can convince yourself that you're in control of your body and the situation at hand, the toughest part of conquering your fear of high-risk moves will be over. It really comes down to attaining mental discipline, and the rest will follow.
NW: What is your opinion of the independent circuits?
RB: At present, there is more work for women with the independents. Many of the big leagues haven't used the women enough, but we have broken through the glass partition created by the major-league promoters, and I think the women's division will be going through a renaissance in the next few years.

Up until this point in time, women have not been given a fair chance to demonstrate their wrestling abilities in the squared circle. The independent promoters know we have drawing power, and, historically, they have given us more opportunities to get out there and do our thing. I like working with the independents very much.
NW: Who has helped you the most in your career?
RB: Killer Kowalski, definitely. I wouldn't be where I am today without him. He's been a tremendous help to me, and he continues to be there for me as an inexhaustible source of wrestling knowledge.
NW: What's been the most exciting experience you've had in the ring?
RB: When I was wrestling in Peru, there was such an overwhelming sense of admiration from the fans. We received flowers each day we were there, which was ten days. They couldn't understand English, but you could feel the love from the fans.
NW: Do you think that American fans are different?
RB: American fans express their love, admiration, and enthusiasm in

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ROSEBUD

different ways. They usually come to all the matches, no matter what the weather is like. During an autograph session, they praise you for your most recent match, and they wish you luck for all your future matches.

My fans are the greatest. They are concerned, caring, and support me all the way! When you can reach people on that level, they support you through the good times and the bad, through the victories and the defeats.

NW: Do you have any advice to anyone who's considering a career in professional wrestling?

RB: My advice to anyone who wants to break into the business is call Killer Kowalski! If wrestling is in your heart, you'll know it. It can be pretty tough starting out, but if you stick it out, you can do it.

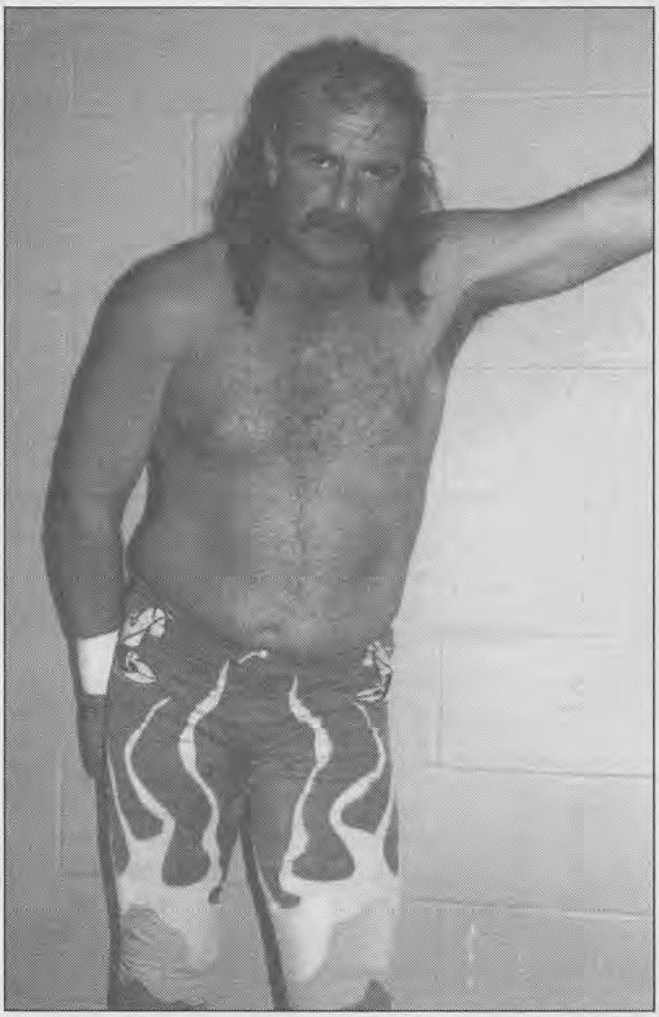
NW: In closing, do you have anything else that you'd like to add?

RB: I will keep focused. Eventually, I'm going to win the title! I hope everyone continues to stick by me and keep coming to my matches. If it weren't for the fans, I would not be wrestling.

NW: Thank you, Rosebud. ***NWW***

The INDEPENDENT Scene

compiled by Michael O'Hara



Jake "the Snake" Roberts is dividing his time between Smoky Mountain Wrestling, the independents, and Mexico. photo: Don Laible

ACW: We have no listing of recognized champions. The top feud involves Johnny Gunn and Rick "the Model" Martel. Other American Commonwealth Wrestling stars include: Lord Zoltan, Rip Sawyer, Johnny Graham, and Glenn Osbourne.

CWA: No listing of champions is available. Mike Samples is feuding with the American Eagle (Danny Davis)...Others on the Championship Wrestling America circuit include: Doug Vines, Jeff Sword, Troy Haste, Flash Flanagan, Dan Childers, and rising rookie star Jerry Faith.

CW-USA: The Portland, Oregon league continues as one of the last regional circuits... Controversial Olympic figure skater Tonya Harding is managing Art Barr... Col. DeBeers (Ed Wiskowski) is the TV champion... After breaking with the OPWF, Billy Jack Haynes made some appearances with this group... Others include: Dane Rush, Bruiser Brian, the Minnesota Mauler II, Karl Pope, Jesse Barr, C.W. Bergstrom, Lou Andrews, and Ladies—Ginger and Michelle.

ECW: Todd Gordon's Eastern Championship Wrestling in Philadelphia continues to make waves and garner rave reviews. Sabu (the nephew of the original Sheik) continues his feuds with legendary Terry Funk & Catus Jack. Speaking of Funk, he was attacked by partner Arn Anderson during a recent bout.

ECW champion Shane Douglas has been holding back the challenge of Road Warrior Hawk. Public Enemy are the ECW tag-team champs... "Pitbull" Spike and Mike Whipreck are feuding over the ECW TV title.

The Sandman and Tommy Cairo are battling in Singapore Caning Matches... Others include: Paul E. Dangerously, Tazmaniac, Jimmy Snuka, and the Bruise Brothers.

FWF: Alex G holds the lightweight title. He is feuding with Randy Hogan (no relation to Hulk)...Florida Wrestling Federation champion "Lightning" Lou Perez has his hands full with the likes of Vampire Warrior and the Cuban Assassin...Al Hardiman & Cliff Anderson hold the FWF tag straps.

GWF: The Dallas-based league saw the reunification of the Freebirds—Terry "Bam Bam" Gordy, "Gorgeous" Jimmy Garvin, and Michael "P.S." Hayes—who are hot on the trail of GWF tag champions Black Bart and John Hawk (managed by "General" Skandor Akbar)... Sixteen-year-old Brandon Baxter is the manager of "Iceman" King Parsons, who continues his feud with "Gentleman" Chris Adams... Rod Price is the Global Wrestling Federation champion.

ICW: The Wilmington, North Carolina-based league recognizes The Iranian Butcher as their heavyweight champ ...The Heartbreakers (Scotty McKeever & Scotty Hotbody) are feuding with the Pretty Young Things (Marc

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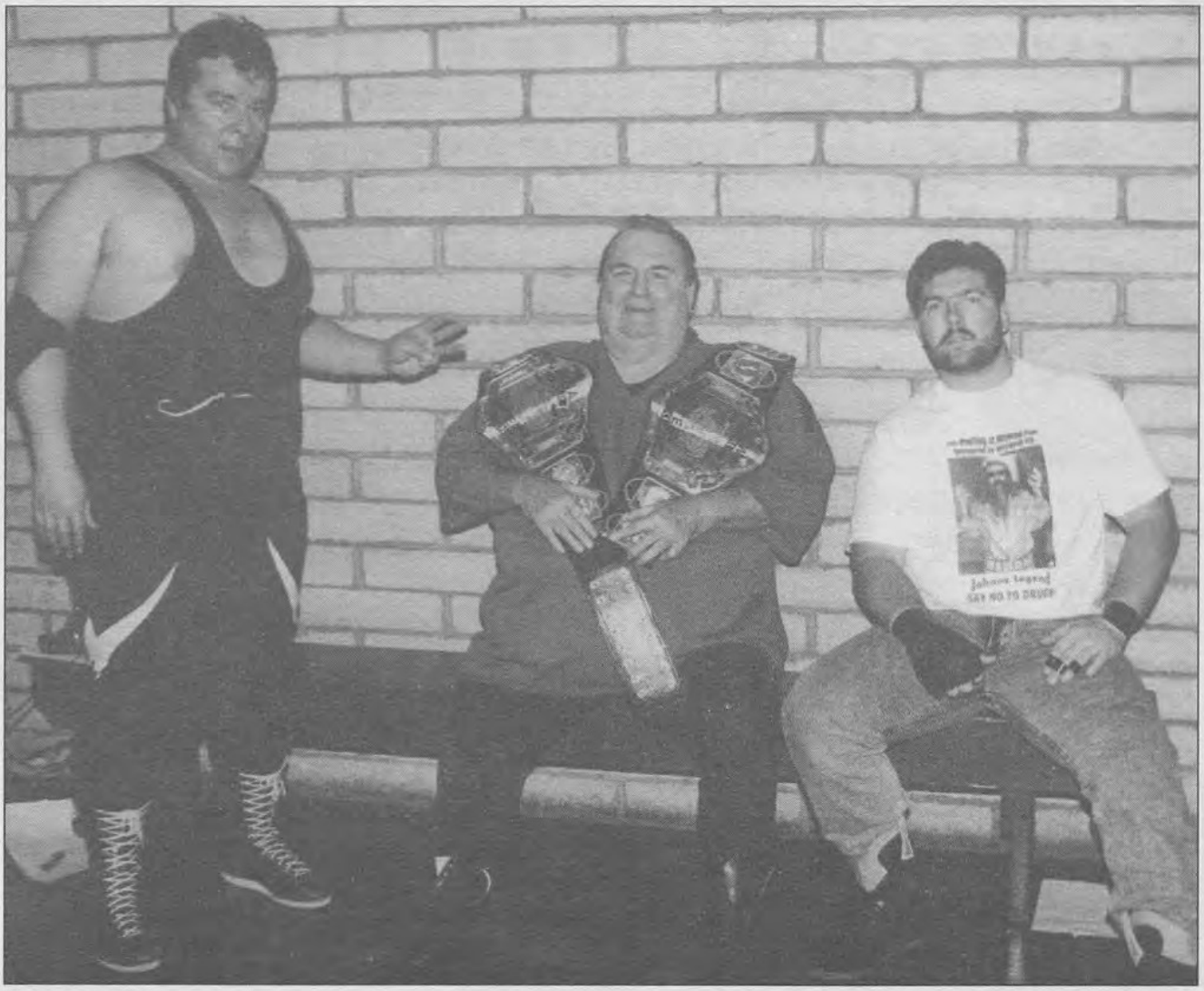


From left to right: "Bad Boy" Bubba Storm, the incomparable Dr. Jerry Graham, and "Desperado" Mark Kissell continue to rule the AIWA roost as the six-man tag champs. photo: AIWA Promotions

Ash & Jason Jarrett) over the ICW tag straps.

Brian Danzig, Chris Windham, Mad Dog Lynch, Sabastian Kane, and Brian Bruise have competed recently under the ICW banner.

MTWP: Chris Carter & Mohammad Saad scored a major upset by defeating the Rock & Roll Express to be crowned the first Midwest Territorial Wrestling Promotions tag-team champions.

The New Kangaroos (Denny Kass & Al Snow), managed by the original Kangaroo Al Costello, are making tremendous strides.

Al Snow defeated Bruiser Bedlam to capture the MTWP heavyweight championship.

NWA: We do not have a listing of their champions (if any) at press time. King Kong Bundy has returned to the ring wars after a lengthy absence, and he is feuding with Tito Santana...Doink the Clown and Johnny Gunn are the two most popular stars here. Others include: Damien Stone, Johnny Rotten, the Kodiak Bear, King Kaluha, the Blackhearts, Tony Atlas, and the Hollywood Kids.

OPWF: The promotion took off to a great start with Billy Jack Haynes successfully defending the Oregon Professional Wrestling Federation title against Scott "Flash" Norton, but a legal battle erupted over the rights to the use of the OPWF name. Billy Jack has since left the promotion.

Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, Mike Miller, "Playboy" Buddy Rose, "Bad News" Allen, Buddy Wayne, Dirty White Boy, John Rambo, the Riot Maker, Billy Two Eagles, Bart Sawyer, "Diamond" Tim Flowers, Buddy Wayne, Firefighter Adrian, and the Bodyguard have all seen action recently.

Ed "Moondog" Moretti is the current OPWF champion, capturing the title from Scott Norton.

PGWA: Based out of Wilkesboro, North Carolina, this new organization runs shows with an all-female roster of talent. A recent card

included: Debbie Combs, Lailani Kai, Candi Divine, Malia Hosaka, Brittany Brown, Allison Royal, and Robbie Rage. For information on upcoming shows call (910) 789-0840.

SMW: Jake "the Snake" Roberts is the Smoky Mountain Wrestling champion after upsetting the Dirty White Boy. Jake also applied a DDT to the Dirty White Girl for good measure... Tim Horner has left... Tracy Smothers defeated Kendo the Samurai (Bobby Blaze) for the TV title.

Well Dunn (Steven Dunn & Timothy Well) are splitting their time between SMW & the WWF... Jim Cornette's F.I.T.E. (Federation of Intimidators, Thugs & Eliminators) consists of Killer Kyle, Bruiser Bedlam, and the Funks: Terry & Dory Funk Jr.

SWF: "Golden Boy" Jerry Grey, the Southern Wrestling Federation World heavyweight champion, has been teaming with legendary veteran Bugsy McGraw against the SWF World tag-team champions—Kevin Diamond & Ed West... Former PKA kick boxer Randy Craft has joined the league... Chief Thunder Eagle is one of the most popular athletes in the area.

UCW: Former Green Bay Packer Vern "the Big V" Henderson is the champion. His number one-ranking contender is Buddy Valentine...Other regional competitors include: Cody Wade, the Crypt Keeper, Rick Thames, and Sonny T.

USWA: The Dream Machine (Troy Graham) defeated Brian Christopher for the USWA title... Bam Bam Bigelow is feuding with Jerry Lawler over the Unified World title.

Spike Huber & Wolfie D. and The Eliminators are feuding over the USWA tag straps... "The Boogie Woogie Man" Jimmy Valiant has worked spot shows.

Former partners The Spellbinder (Del Rios) and Jeff Gaylord have split, and they are now feuding... Ditto for Reggie B. Fine and Koko B. Ware.

WWWA: Brutus "the Barber" Beefcake defeated Nailz the Convict to capture the promotion's gold... Misty Blue holds the WWWA Ladies title. Her top contender is Rusty the Fox...Rick Martel is feuding with Abdullah the Butcher... Demolition Ax & Blast are tag teaming here... Tito Santana and Sid Vicious are waging war.

NOTES: Walter "Killer" Kowalski & Bruno Sammartino spent a recent afternoon in Massachusetts engaged in a nonstop three-hour autograph session before a jam-packed audience.

Veteran Illio DiPaolo is the star at his own restaurant in Buffalo, New York... Ditto for Tony Parisi and his bistro in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

Get well wishes to the Great Boris Malenko (Lawrence Simon) and George "Crybaby" Cannon, both are feeling under the weather.

A recent card held at the McGill Air force Base in Tampa, Florida saw "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan go to a double count out with Papa Shango (Charles Wright); "Dangerous" Danny Spivey stopped Rocky Johnson; and "Golden Boy" Jerry Grey overpowered "Fantastics" Jackie Fulton.

"Mean" Mark Ash is the rising star to watch on the ICW Wrestling circuit (Raleigh, NC).

PASSAGES:

• **Raymond Canty**, 43, died as a result of a massive heart attack. The talented performer competed under the ring name of Ray Candy. He also worked in numerous tag combinations, such as the Zambuie Express and the Commandos.

• **Eddie "the Brain" Creatchman**, 69, died after a lengthy bout with cancer. In the 1960s & 70s, he was the manager of the original Sheik during his U.S. title reign in Detroit, Michigan.

• **Ronnie Etchison**, 73, died after a lengthy illness. He was a popular fixture on the Central States circuit for over 40 years. Over the years, he held every important title in the region.

• **Antone "Ripper" Leone** - exact cause of death is unknown as we go to press. ***NWW***

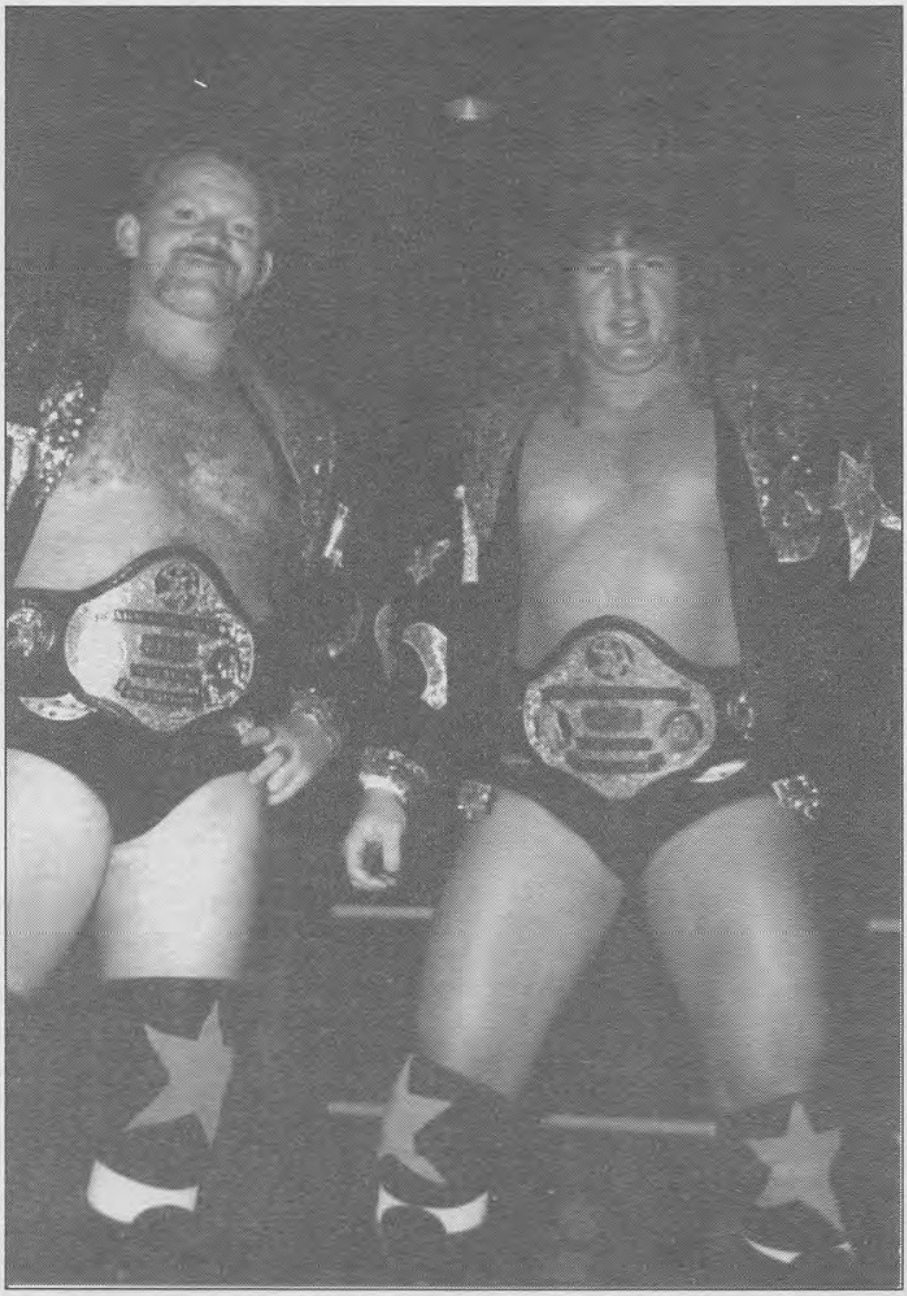
NEXT GENERATION

JIMMY DEL REY

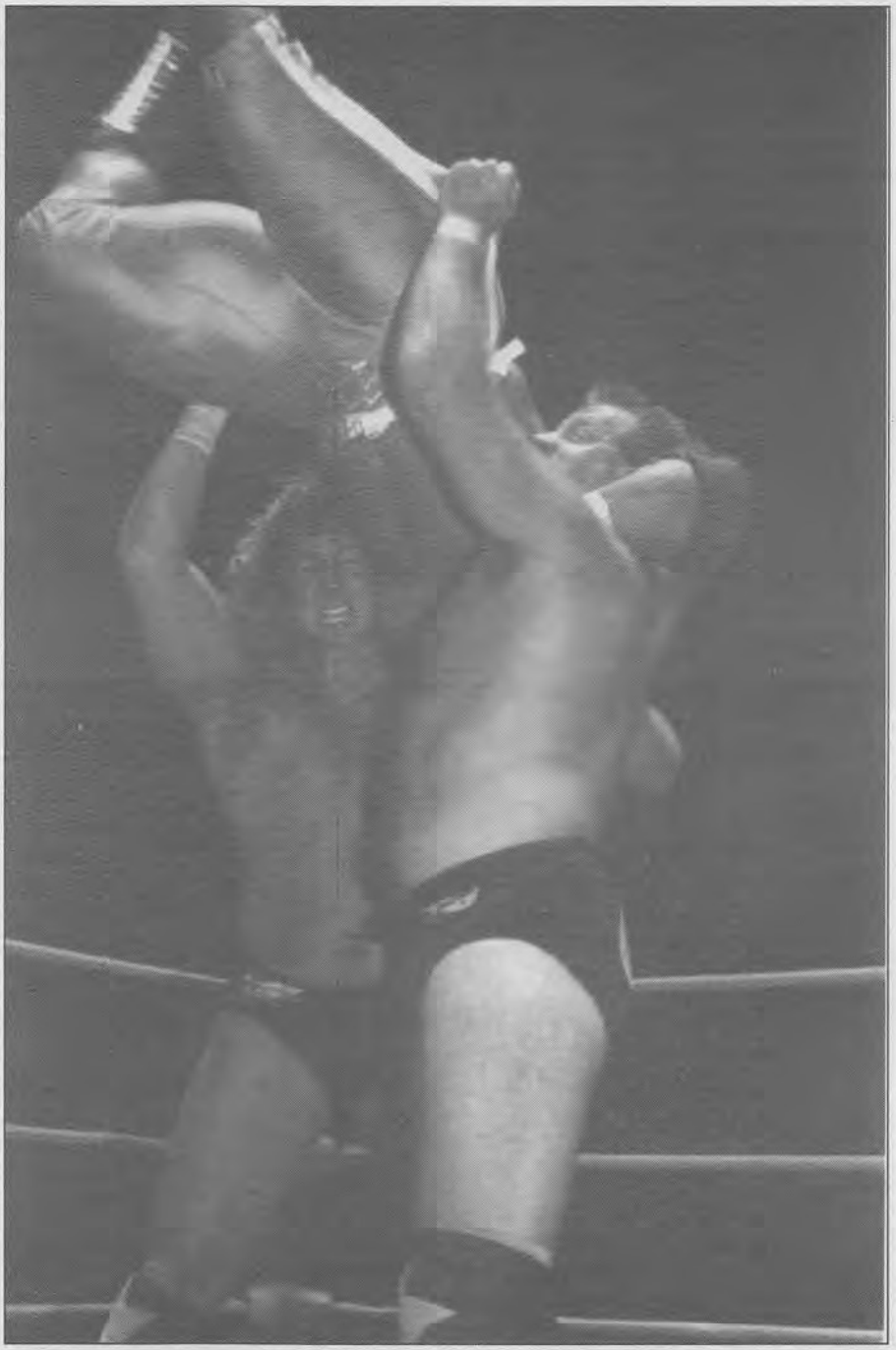
One Half of The High-Flying Heavenly Bodies

interview by Billie Jessee

NWW: How long have you been wrestling, Jimmy?
JDR: I've been wrestling professionally for more than ten years, so I'm no newcomer.
NWW: How did you get your start in wrestling?
JDR: I started with a small group in the Florida Panhandle, and I worked my way up from there. It was a long, hard climb, but I'm glad it happened this way. Victory tastes so much sweeter when you really believe in your heart that you've earned it.
NWW: Have you wrestled under any other names?
JDR: Yes, I have wrestled under the names of Jomo Kenya and Jim Backlund.
NWW: Where are you from?
JDR: I was born in Michigan.
NWW: Did you ever wrestle as an amateur?
JDR: I do have an extensive amateur wrestling background. I began wrestling at the young age of six in Pennsylvania, and I continued to wrestle through high school.



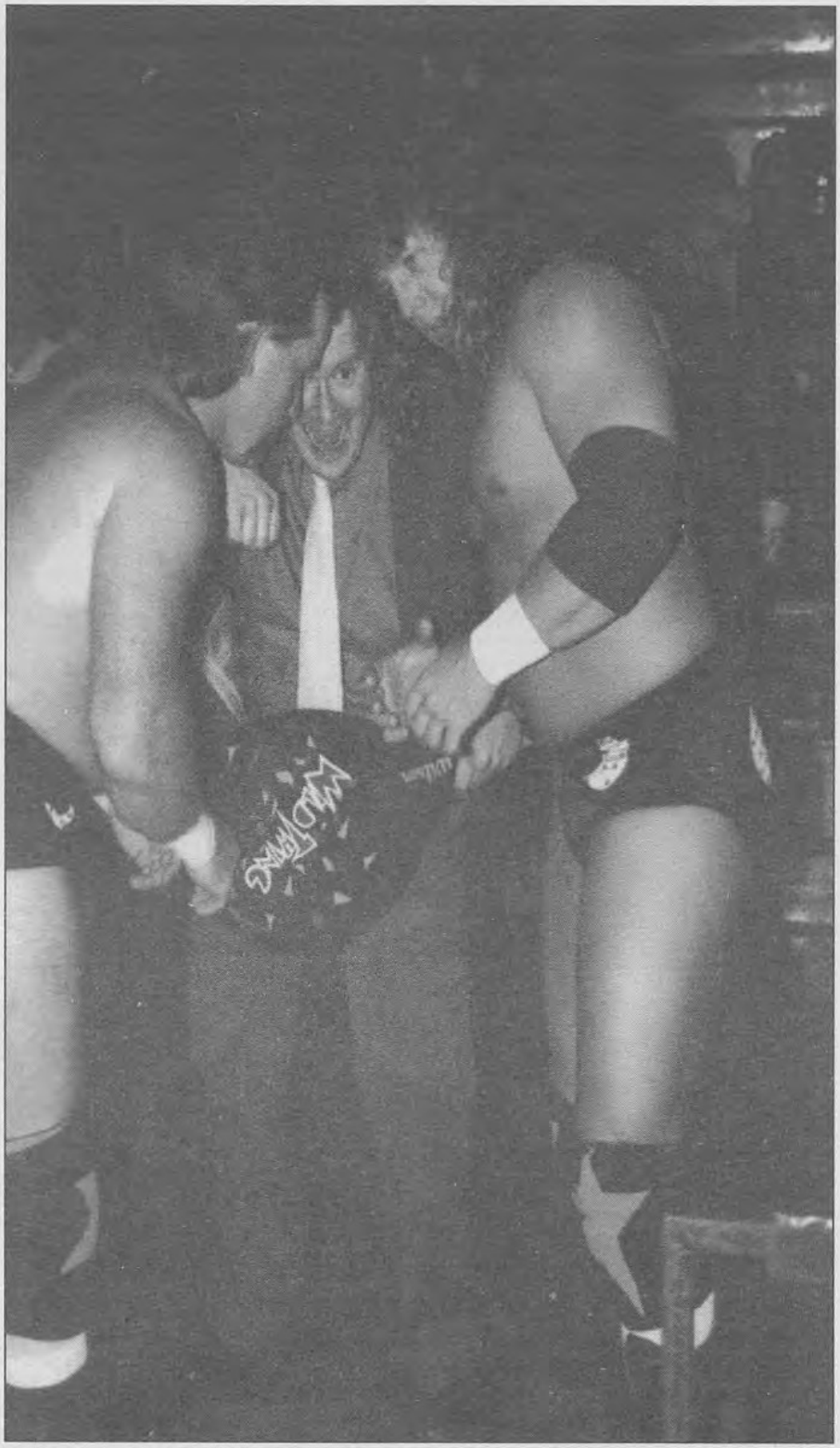
Jimmy Del Rey (left) and Dr. Tom Prichard (right) have dominated the Smoky Mountain Wrestling tag-team scene for quite some time. They are seen here as the proud possessors of the promotion's tag gold. photo: Jerry Wilson



Jimmy and Dr. Tom executed their devastating double suplex on another hapless victim. photo: Adrian Davis

NWW: Where did you go to school?
JDR: I graduated from Plant City High School in Florida. I had the opportunity to play professional baseball with the Texas Rangers, but I turned that offer down to become a professional wrestler.
NWW: Who trained you to become a professional wrestler?
JDR: I was trained by Ray French.
NWW: Which wrestlers did you admire while growing up?
JDR: I really liked Gorgeous George, Bobby Shane, and Bruno Sammartino. They're a diverse trio, I must admit, but I feel they were the best in their particular styles. They were true professionals as well as very charismatic wrestlers.
NWW: What do you think is your strongest point as a wrestler?
JDR: As a wrestler, I'm very quick and a high-flyer. My amateur background was a tremendous asset in preparing me for the professional ring.
NWW: Do you credit any wrestler for having a strong influence on your career?
JDR: I would probably say Steve Keirn; he was part of the Fabulous Ones tag team. He was always a mainstay on the Florida circuit, and I think he personifies everything that a wrestler should be. He's a great guy and a tremendous talent.
NWW: Have you wrestled much overseas?
JDR: Yes, I've been to Japan. I worked for a company called Frontier Martial Arts Wrestling [FMW]. I was their light-heavyweight champion. I have also wrestled for another promotion in Japan called WING, where I captured their junior-heavyweight title.
NWW: What is the difference between wrestling in Japan and wrestling in the United States?
JDR: Well, Japan's wrestling is very high energy and much more brutal. It has a serious edge to it. The wrestlers and the fans are very serious about their wrestling, and it definitely brings out the best in you.
NWW: Who has been your toughest opponent in the ring so far?
JDR: I would say Kevin Sullivan. He's tough, sadistic, and keeps coming at you, no matter what.
NWW: Do you think wrestling will ever have only one world champ?
JDR: I don't believe it ever will. There's such a big market out there, and everyone wants to be a wrestler or a promoter.

We keep hearing about the emerging super–information highway in which we'll have 500 television stations, so I'm sure we'll be hearing more about the regional promotions that are popping up.
NWW: How do you train for the ring?
JDR: I have a gym in my home. I train three days a week there, then I train three days a week in the ring. I also like to work with aspiring wrestlers and rookies. At one time, I was a trainer at Larry Sharpe's Monster Factory in Florida.
NWW: Do you remember your professional–wrestling debut?
JDR: Yes, I certainly do. It was in Bainbridge, Georgia, and it was



EVIL GENIUSES AT WORK: Manager Jim Cornette called for a mid-match conference with his dastardly duo. photo: Jerry Wilson

against a masked man called the Inferno.

NWW: What is your height and weight?

JDR: I am five feet, ten and one-half inches tall, and I weigh 202 pounds.

NWW: What do you think of the independent promotions?

JDR: Some of the independent promotions put on wrestling shows with wrestlers who need more training. By doing this, they take away from the independent promoters who do have decent talent.

NWW: Have you had any interesting moments in your career?

JDR: One memorable moment was when I had my hair shaved off during a match with Dustin Rhodes.

NWW: Do you think wrestling has changed since you began?

JDR: Yes, it has. Wrestling has become very commercialized; Smoky Mountain Wrestling has retained the old flavor of the sport. It has the same quality of yesteryear when there was plenty of on-the-mat wrestling. The fans really respond to this style of action.

In most regions of the United States, the standard is high–speed and high–energy action.

NWW: Have you wrestled as part of a tag team?

JDR: Yes, I have wrestled as one half of a tag team. I've been very fortunate; I've teamed with some of the most talented competitors in the business.

NWW: Who have been some of your tag-team partners?

JDR: At one time, I tagged with Bret Wayne Sawyer, and we were billed as The Playboys. We held the Florida tag-team championship. I also tagged with "Sexy" Rex King. Currently, Dr. Tom Prichard and I have dominated the Smoky Mountain Wrestling Promotion as the Heavenly Bodies.

NWW: Do you prefer wrestling as a tag team or as a single?

JDR: I prefer singles, but wrestling with Tom is such a pleasure.

NWW: Who have been some of your toughest tag-team competitors?

JDR: It would have to be the Rock & Roll Express. We have traded the SMW tag straps back and forth a number of times, so they're right up there at the top of the list.

We've also had a number of exciting matches against the Steiner Brothers and the Bushwhackers during our recent invasion of the WWF.

NWW: Which wrestlers do you admire today?

JDR: I like "Macho Man" Randy Savage. He has a very wild and outrageous personality. Many kids look up to him, and that's one reason why I admire him so much.

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Dr. Tom Prichard is proud to introduce his partner to the jeering crowd. The Heavenly Bodies, united as a high-flying tag team, can never be defeated! photo: Adrian Davis

NWW: Have you had any serious injuries in your wrestling career?
JDR: Yes, I've had quite a few injuries. I blew out my right knee and my left shoulder. I've broken and bruised my ribs, and I've also had my two front teeth knocked out.
NWW: Which titles have you held?
JDR: I've held the Florida tag-team title, Caribbean junior-heavyweight title, Florida junior-heavyweight title, FMW light-heavyweight title, WING junior-heavyweight title, PWF light-heavyweight title, the ICWA light-heavyweight title, and the Smoky Mountain Wrestling tag-team title.
NWW: Where are you wrestling now?
JDR: I have been splitting my time between Smoky Mountain Wrestling and the World Wrestling Federation. Whenever the opportunity presents itself, I still like to wrestle in Florida, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Korea, Singapore, and Japan, but my schedule is pretty full at this time.
NWW: What is your favorite finishing move?
JDR: I like using the ginsu. It's a leg-drop off the top rope across the throat of my opponent.
NWW: What do you think it takes to become successful in professional wrestling?
JDR: To be successful in professional wrestling takes a lot of determination, good training, and when you're down and hurt, the guts to be able to pull it all together again.
NWW: Do you think there are any holds or moves that should be barred from wrestling?
JDR: No, I don't. If a move was created for wrestling, it should be used. It's my job to know all the holds and counterholds.
NWW: Do you think there is too much wrestling shown on TV?
JDR: My belief is that if people can stay at home and watch wrestling on TV, then they are not going to drive and pay to see live shows. Wrestling has had too much television exposure, and it has really taken away from the sport.
NWW: What do you like to do besides wrestling?
JDR: I like to play golf. When I retire from wrestling, I'd like to play professional golf.
NWW: Do you have any brothers or sisters?
JDR: I have one brother who is in the Air Force right now.
NWW: Are you married?
JDR: No, I'm not.
NWW: Do you have any favorite music that you listen to?
JDR: I like to listen to jazz.
NWW: Thank you, Jim, for this interview, and good luck in your career. ***NWW***

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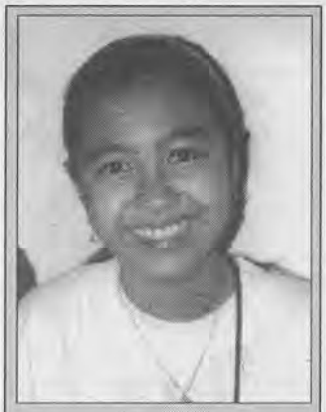

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Brian Halk (34), 28 S. Florence St., Springfield, OH 45505–Favorites: Ric Flair, Bret Hart, Undertaker, and Curt Hennig.

Rose Walker (32), 28 Oak Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 STS, England–Wanted: U.S. pen pals who like the Undertaker, Bret Hart, and all WWF good guys.

Ruby Clem (19), 1912 Franzen Way, Dinuba, CA 93618–Favorites: Bret Hart, Marty Jannetty, Roddy Piper and Curt Hennig.

Lynsey Bovill (14), 101 St. Ninian Terrace, St. Marys, Dundee, Scotland–Favorites: Lex Luger, Bret Hart, Shawn Michaels, Randy Savage, and the Undertaker.

FANZINE FOLLIES!

If you would like your mat newsletter listed in this department, please send copies of your publication to: ***New Wave Wrestling***, P.O. Box 9035, Grand Station, Dept. FF, Long Island City, NY 11103–0903.

Rob Block, 13115 Sleepy Wind St., Moorpark, CA 93021-2932, publishes Wrestling News Time—WWF news—$1.50...Ron Evans, P.O. Box 400, Eagle, ID 83616-0400, publishes Amman Ra. Issue #15 is the latest issue of his comic book featuring grappledom's greatest hero—ONLY $1.00...R. Seth Friedman, P.O. Box 170099, San Francisco, CA 94117, has taken over the reins of Factsheet Five—the ultimate fanzine source publication–$6.00 per issue!...Evan Ginzburg, P.O. Box 640471-Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, NY 11364, publishes Wrestling Then & Now—a wonderful look at wrestling's past—only $1.25...Sheldon Goldberg, P.O. Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130, publishes Mat Marketplace—$2.50, a maven of mat memorabilia... Allan Greenberg's Between the Ropes, 5501 Adalbent #114, Cote St. Luc, Quebec, Canada H4W 2B1—$1.50 for expansive coverage & nostalgia...Mark Keahey, P.O. Box 1681, Stuart, FL 34995-1681, publishes The Wrestling Reporter Newsletter—top Florida & major-league coverage —$1.00...Pete Lederberg, 3253 Foxcroft Rd., #G201, Miramar, FL 33025, has a list of color pixs of the top stars from the last 25 years—send $1.00...Terrance R. Machalek, 976 Miller Road, West St. Paul, Manitoba, Canada R4A 4A4, publishes Canadian Championship Wrestling—$1.50—the latest news from the Great White North...Georgiann Makropoulos' Wrestling Chatterbox, 23-44 30th Dr., Astoria, NY 11102-3252—$2.50 per issue, a fun-filled monthly fan gathering!.. Dave Meltzer's Wrestling Observer, P.O. Box1228, Campbell, CA 95009-1228—$1.50 per issue, intense weekly mat analysis...Dan Pettiglio, 21 Pine Road, Brentwood, NH 03833, has published a fantastic professionally printed comic book on the history of wrestling called Pro-Wrestling's True Facts—$4.45 (includes postage) – and well worth it!...Mike Rodgers, 2740 SE Lewellyn, Troutdale, OR 97060, publishes Ring Around the Northwest—all the latest Oregon/Washington news—$1.00...Special Events, P.O. Box 453, Wilkesboro, NC 28697, publishes a quarterly newsletter on lady wrestlers—$5.00 per issue.

INTERNATIONAL SLAMS

AFRICA (Central & South)

AWF: We don't have much to report from Zimbabwe this issue. The Mighty Igor and Dory Funk Junior have been rumored for a tour this fall..."Moondog" Max still holds the World light-heavyweight crown.

UWF: Wrestling action in Durban, South Africa has been put on hold indefinitely as a result of a full-scale riot which erupted when the Giant Warrior, the Canadian Wrestling Association super-heavyweight champ, assaulted Gama Singh, the NWA World mid-heavyweight champ, after Singh had successfully defeated top-ranking South African star Danie Brits.

So enraged were the fans, they began to throw their chairs at the wrestlers as they stormed the ring. The entire Westville Indoor Sports Stadium, which is on the University of Durban campus, turned into one, gigantic free-for-all.

Pro wrestler called the Pink Panther drew a pistol and fired two warning shots into the air in order to stop the chaos. At that same time, an unidentified man shot into the crowd hitting one fan in the leg. Several other fans were stabbed during the ruckus.

Other wrestlers who are under the Universal Wrestling Federation banner include: Terri Middoux (from France), American imports—Blade Runner & Dirty Angel, plus local stars—Gypsy Roulett, Calvin the Butcher, Raja, and the Tornado.

AUSTRIA & GERMANY

CWA Promotions: Promoter Otto Wanz continues to bring the best international talent to Austria and Germany. Recent stars on tour have included the following: "Dangerous" Danny Spivey, the Terminators – Rage and Fury – Tony St. Clair, Colonel Brody, Lance Storm, Dave "Rocky" Taylor, and Mile Zrno.

CANADA

CWA: The Canadian Wrestling Association, based out of Hamilton, Ontario, provides fine, regional shows. Many second-generation stars dominate the roster. Angelo Mosca Junior (with his legendary father in his corner) has returned to ring action after a lengthy absence... Mark and Jay Sterling, who are the sons of Dewey "the Missing Link" Robertson, are also working here. The promotion is orchestrated by veteran promoter & wrestler Ricky Johnson, the younger brother of famed wrestler Rocky Johnson.

IWS: Veteran stars Sweet Daddy Siki and Ron Hutchinson run their league from Sully's Gym in Toronto. International Wrestling Superstars runs shows throughout the providence, using fine talent from their wrestling training school,

A Turn For The Wurst: The Mongolian Mauler & Abdullah the Butcher double teamed a sizable banquet. The gruesome twosome emerged victorious. photo: Steve Bryant

also located at Sully's. We do not have a listing of current champions as we go to press. Athletes in the area who are interested in their training facility should call Sully's Gym at (416) 534-8723.

RCW: This Winnipeg-based promotion recognizes Mike Stone as the River City Wrestling heavyweight champ... Sgt. Steele is the top-ranking contender... "Caveman" Broda, Todd Bullet, the Dakota Moondog, Major Max Impact, the Shocker, Sluggo Smith, Robbie Royce, Bud E. Bundy, the Outpatient, and Vance Nevada are some of the stars on the circuit.

RMW: We have no listing of champions for this Calgary-based group. Lance Storm, Lenny St. Clair, Beef Wellington, and Jerry Morrow are the headliners for Rocky Mountain Wrestling.

WCCW: Top stars on the British Columbia circuit include the following: Michelle Starr, "Diamond" Timothy Flowers, Buddy Wayne, "Bad News" Allen (Allen Coage), and Rocky Dellasera. No champions are listed as we go to press.

WFWA: The Natural is the West Four Wrestling Alliance heavyweight champion. He is currently involved in a heated feud with the Titan. Robbie Austin, Tiger Sasaki, Kerry Brown, and Chi Chi Cruz also appear for the Winnipeg-based organization.

GREAT BRITAIN

All Star: As we go to press, the Legend of Doom (Johnny South) and Dunk the Clown (Gary Welsh) remain unbeaten for the 1994 season..Giant Haystacks, the seven-foot-tall, 630-pounder, has retained his dominance in the league by virtue of winning most of the recent series of battle royals... The 450-pound American Avalanche (Paul "P.N. News" Neu) is gunning for Haystacks and his World super-heavyweight crown... Marty Jones, Flash Barker, Danny Collins, the Liverpool Lads, and Johnny Saint have been seen on recent shows.

Tatsumi Fujinami is one of the most consistent superstars on the New Japan Pro-Wrestling circuit.

Pro-Wrestling South: Riding the crest of popularity on this circuit is a six-foot-three, 280-pound former British Royal Marine called the Bulldozer (Wayne Coates)... The U.K. Nasty Boy (Adrian Finch) and Lewis Blain are the top tag team in the area...Middleweight champion Clive Cannell was suspended for unacceptable conduct in a title match with rising rookie sensation Justin Hansgood. Clive should be back in action by the time you read this.

Wrestling Alliance: The Rock & Roll Express (Bob Barrett) is the headliner, and he is feuding with both Steve Hawk and Leroy Brown... Promoter/wrestler Scot Conway still makes time

You'd be hard-pressed to find a more popular international star than Mexico's Konnan El Barbaro. photo: Bob Murphy

for tag action with partner Mel Stuart. Many wrestlers on this circuit are using names similar to well-known American stars, such as the Macho Man, 1-2-3 Boy (Billy Jo Justice), the English Bulldog, the Wrestling Clown & the Barbarian.

JAPAN

All-Japan: Toshiaki Kawada defeated Steve "Dr. Death" Williams to win the Champion Carnival Tournament... Johnny Ace and Steve Williams have been doing quite well as a tag team...Others seeing action here: The original Fantastics—Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton, the Heavenly Bodies, Giant Baba, Stan Hansen, Abdullah the Butcher, and Giant Kamala II.

All-Japan Women: A 10th Anniversary singles tournament is underway as you read this. Running since June 3, it will conclude on August 28 with the winner facing Aja Kong in a WWWA title match...Sakie Hasegawa, Yumiko Hotta, Suzuka Minami, and Tomoko Watanabe are included in the series... Kyoko Inoue holds the Pacific title... Manami Toyota and Toshiyo Yamada are the WWWA tag champs.

IWA: Promoter Victor Quinnones held a 10-man tournament to determine an IWA champion. The tournament includes the following: Nobutaka Araya, Leatherface (Michael Kirschner), Miguel Perez Jr., Crush the Eliminator, the Crypt Keeper, Dick Slater, and Tracy Smothers. The results have missed our press deadline, but we'll provide all updates in the next issue.

Dick Murdoch and the Head Hunters recently toured... Lots of Mexican action here as well—Silver King and El Texano are continuing their EMLL feud on the circuit.

New Japan: The Wild Pegasus/Pegasus Kid (Chris Benoit) captured the New Japan Super Junior-heavyweight Cup in a very successful tournament series... The IWGP tag-team champions—The Hell Raisers (Road Warrior Hawk & Kensuke "Power Warrior" Sasake)—are feuding with the Steiner Brothers.

Satoru Sayama, the original Tiger Mask, who also wrestled in England as Sammy Lee back in the early 1980s, came out of retirement for matches with Jushin "Thunder" Lyger... As we go to press, Shinya Hashimoto still holds the IWGP title. He is feuding with Yoshiaki Fujiwara.

MEXICO

AAA: Konnan El Barbaro finally gained revenge on Jake "the Snake" Roberts by defeating him in a best two-of-three-falls event in which the loser had his head shaved.

Rey Misterio Senior & Junior are tag teaming... Octagon forfeited his Mexican middleweight title to the number-one ranked Blue Panther because of injuries.

The Love Machine (Art Barr) has been wrestling in six-man tag matches with partners Miguelito Perez & Misterioso...The Warlord (of WWF fame) is here as the bodyguard for Jake Roberts...Solar, Santa & Angel Azteca hold the six-man tag straps.

EMLL/MWF: Promoter Carl Lauer is hoping to garner a large Mexican following in the Southern California area as well as portions of Mexico with top stars from South of the Border.

Chavito Guerrero, who is the son of famed Chavo Guerrero, made his pro-wrestling debut... Wrestlers include: Black Magic, El Negro Casas, the Canadian Vampire, Rayo de Jalisco Junior, and UWA middleweight champion—El Ultimo Dragon.

NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA

Absolutely no reports — hopefully, we'll have good news in next issue!

PUERTO RICO

WWC: Ray Gonzalez holds the World Wrestling Council belt... Carlos Colon captured the WWC TV title in a recent tournament... "Dirty" Dick Slater, Dutch Mantell, Eddie Gilbert, and Greg "the Hammer" Valentine are seeing action here. ***NWW***

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The Phantom # 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13 (all FN) - $1.00 each
The Prisoner Book D (VF) - $2.00
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IMPACT

Black Hood #7, 8, 9 (all FN) – $1.00 each
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MARVEL

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Avengers Annual # 20 (M) - $2.25
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Mighty Thor #414, 428 (M) – $1.00, 432(M) – $3., 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 458 (all M) – $1.00 each, 459 (NM - 1st Thunderstrike) - $1.75
Mighty Thor Annual # 16(M), 17(VF)-$2.25 ea.
The Nam #20 (NM) -$1.
Namor, the Sub-Mariner #29 (NM)-$1.25
NamorAnnual#1(M)-$2.
Spider-Man #23(FN)-$2.
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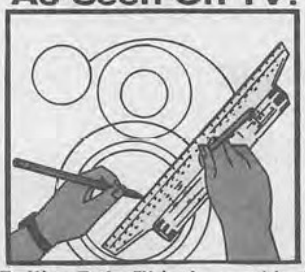

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SINGAPORE CANING MATCHES

Has Women's Wrestling Gone Too Far?

Anyone who has been reading the daily newspapers over the past few months has become aware of Singapore's unique style of dispensing justice. The harsh realities and lingering aftereffects of a kendo–stick beating have been well documented. Singapore Caning Matches are becoming big business on the independent scene, particularly, in the women's division. Are promoters placing our beloved grapplerettes in potentially career-ending situations in the name of sport —or for a few dollars more?

special commentary by Michael O'Hara

photos by Jon Simmes

IN RECENT MONTHS, the lines have been drawn in regard to Singapore's system of justice. It seems everyone has an opinion on this form of punishment and the way it fits particular crimes.

Because of the very visual and brutal nature of the kendo-stick caning procedures, newspapers and television programs went on–ad nauseam–about the caning and its deadly aftereffects.

As is apt to always be the case, wrestling promoters are quick to jump on the latest gimmicks. Now, the use of a kendo stick is nothing new in the rasslin' ring; however, we find the latest twist includes our beloved grapplerettes.

In the minds of the mat impresarios, fans are willing to pay ample sums of cash to witness the maidens of the mat unmercifully whipped and possibly scarred for life in the name of so-called sports entertainment.

The very nature of women's wrestling should be an uplifting exhibition of grace, skill, and finesse. Why promoters would want to place female athletes in such precarious predicaments is beyond comprehension, but the facts remain. More and more wrestlers are participating in these deadly stipulation matches, and they're paying the price.

"I've been involved in matches in which the use of a kendo stick has come into play on many occasions," stated Misty Blue, one of the premier Ladies Champions of the wrestling world. "I can tell you from firsthand experience that it hurts like hell."

"I've been caned a few times, and the bamboo can rip right through our wrestling gear, which is made of a very thick fabric.

Skeptics have laughed off the caning stipulation as a gimmick in which no one gets hurt, but I've taken my fair share of canings and it stays with you," said the heroic World champ.

After making her statement, Misty brought our attention to a deep cut on her left shoulder.

"I only hope this doesn't become a permanent scar. Because of my heavy booking schedule, this cut continues to open each night as a result of repeated bodyslams and other punishing holds," said Misty.

And Ms. Blue is not alone in her concern. Take a closer look at many of the female athletes, and you'll see the telltale signs of canings. How much ring abuse are the women expected to take in the name of competition?

The fans have come to expect the women's division to be filled with high-flying action and lightning-quick moves. Does the battering of wrestlers, female and male alike, serve any purpose other than to shorten careers and eliminate top contenders from the field of competition?

Throughout the history of the grappling game, women wrestlers have held a special place in the hearts and minds of both the fans and the promoters. In the 1980s, the women were all but forgotten by the major-league promoters. They continued to flourish and exhibit their superb wrestling skills by way of the struggling independent circuits of North America. Now, we find the women thrown to the proverbial lions in matches with little or no redeeming value.

Gimmicks are all fine and dandy, but to severely injure and permanently scar the hardworking men and women of the ring is unconscionable!

Has pro wrestling fallen upon such hard times that we need to draw blood from our grappling gladiators? Mat mastery and talent should be enough to fill arenas.

Perhaps we've become a society so jaded with athletics that agility and ability no longer have any merit.

Are the promoters at fault for presenting gimmicks which cater to the baser elements of mankind? Must the lowest-common denominator always be addressed in order to achieve greatest profits? If so, what are the long-term costs to the sport and its participants?

Are the wrestlers at fault for accepting such terms? Partially, but they are working people who must put bread on the table. If they don't wrestle, they don't get paid—plain and simple.

Or are we, the wrestling fans, at fault? What's your opinion? We'd like to know.

MIKE'S MAILBAG

Send your comments & opinions to:
Michael O'Hara, Publisher
New Wave Wrestling
P.O. Box 9035, Grand Station, Dept. MM
Long Island City, NY 11103-0903

Dear Michael,

Being a strict fan of the "Golden Age of Wrestling," I've been very pleased with the memories which your magazines and tapes have provided.

Naturally, I am curious as to what became of some of my favorite wrestlers of 30 years ago. Whatever happened to the three blond bombshells of the 1960s—Ray Stevens, Eddie Graham & Art Neilson?

Ray was always my favorite; he seemed to have an active life outside of the ring, which added a credibility to a sport all too often focused on facade.

Moreover, his career traversed quite a variety of roles from that of pure pandemonium as tag partner to Roy Shire, to the Adonis of the United States championship (our West Coast version of Buddy Rogers), and, finally, to the role of "the Crippler." This villain of villains was adept at upstaging all others.

Ray Stevens was never exactly the winner of any popularity polls. Nonetheless, few other wrestlers could offer as much within one package as Ray. For these reasons, I think an in-depth feature story on "Crippler" Ray Stevens would be very well received by your astute ***New Wavers***.

Michael Reveles
San Diego, CA

Mike's memo: We have no information on the whereabouts of Art Neilson. Can any of our ***New Wavers*** provide a lead?

Sadly, Eddie Graham died in the mid-1980s as a result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Over the past few years, Ray has been involved in a wrestling training camp. I've also heard a rumor of Ray coming to work for the WWF in a "behind-the-scenes" capacity—possibly, as a road agent.

★★★

Dear Mike,

Growing up as a black child, I looked up to wrestlers like Rudy Diamond, Charlie Brown, Gerald Finley, "Hardrock" Ricky Reeves, Keith Patterson, and Joshua Stroud.

They were black wrestlers who were fixtures in the WWF and NWA in the late 1970s/early 1980s. They left a lasting impression on me as a young boy. I wanted to be like them. They were never winners in any of their matches, but I didn't care.

Are they still wrestling anywhere?

Rodney Washington
2740 Axe Factory Road
Apt. C-102
Philadelphia, PA 19152

Mike's memo: What's so unfortunate about the wrestling business, Rodney, is the disappearance of so many beloved athletes once they leave the ring.

I haven't seen any of your heroes listed on wrestling shows in quite a long time, but I do recall Rudy Diamond and Charlie Brown appearing on independent cards throughout NJ and PA after they left the WWF in the mid-1980s.

I've listed your address here in the remote chance that one of these great wrestlers might see this and contact you, or perhaps, some of your fellow ***New Wavers*** might be able to assist you.

Maybe they didn't win too many matches, but pinfall victories sometimes have more to do with the luck of the draw, or being at the right place at the right time, than mat ability. I agree with you—they were true heroes of the ring & great men.

★★★

Dear Mike,

Knowing the large U.K. readership ***New Wave*** has, especially judging from the pen-pal section, I have a request. I have many WWF Collector's Cards and Stickers that I would like to provide good homes for.

If ***New Wavers*** would send a list of what they have and the numbers that they're looking for, I'd like to swap with them. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

I have amassed several thousand doubles!

Mr. J.P. O'Brien
408 St. Johns Park
Waterford, Ireland

★★★

Dear Mike,

You have succeeded where other mags have failed. ***New Wave Wrestling*** is an amazingly honest information source which communicates with the fans on a down-to-earth basis.

The June 1993 issue was my first issue, and I was literally blown away! I love reading the mat history and facts.

It's hard to keep up on the latest here in Australia as we only have the mags and videos—no cable.

I am officially starting to collect ***New Wave*** instead of the hype mags—fantastic, up-to-date, and far out!

One question: Are Legion of Doom's Hawk and the Barbarian one and the same?

Z. Skuja
Goodna, Australia

Mike's Memo: They are two different wrestlers. L.O.D.'s Hawk and the Barbarian, formerly a member of the Powers of Pain, were once involved in a tag-team feud.

PINFORMATION

Q: What ever happened to Brutus "the Barber" Beefcake? What's his real name and age?

Melody Bollman
Oak Ridge, NJ

A: Beefcake has been kept busy with appearances as an extra on Hulk Hogan's syndicated TV series, *Thunder in Paradise*.

Because of his near-fatal parasailing accident several years ago, Brutus (Ed Leslie) has very limited bookings. Now in his late thirties, he recently won the WWWA heavyweight title (see the Independent Scene section of this issue.)

—•—

Q: Will Mabel from Men on a Mission ever become a villain? Will Demolition ever form a tag-team once again?

Some time ago, during the Earthquake's quest for Hulk Hogan's WWF title, a wrestler, wearing a hockey mask and red baggy pants, attacked Earthquake in the ring and connected with three head butts. This occurred several times over the next few weeks, but the masked man eventually disappeared. Who was the masked man?

Habby Williams
Brooklyn, NY

A: Mabel, as a member of the Harlem Knights tag team in the USWA, was a rulebreaker, so it could happen.

Demolition Ax and his new partner Blast are working independent shows in the Northeast portion of the United States, as well as overseas tours of the Middle East.

The man in the mask was the man in our first pinfo question—Brutus Beefcake! The mask was used as a protection for the Beefer after his accident, but for whatever reason, the gimmick was abandoned.

—•—

Q: You've mentioned in a previous issue that Randy Savage and "Leaping" Lanny Poffo are brothers. Have they ever wrestled one another? What is Randy's birthday? Who is older, Randy or Lanny?

Margarite Williams
Chicago, IL

A: They have wrestled many, many times! Randy defeated Lanny for the ICW World heavyweight title on March 13, 1979. Randy is the older half brother of Lanny. He was born on November 15, 1952.

—•—

Q: Can you list the complete history of the AWA World title? Who held the most wrestling titles? What's Jimmy Hart's real name? How about a profile on the career of Ted DiBiase?

Julian M. Tamell
Worcester, England

A: We have the complete listing of AWA champions ready; hopefully, it will be printed in an upcoming issue.

It would appear from this issue's *Weird Wrestling Tales* that Jerry Lawler has held the most wrestling titles. We've listed 23 World title reigns, and we have not counted his numerous AWA Southern championships or tag honors under the CWA/USWA & AWA banners—whew!

I believe Jimmy Hart is his real name.

I agree—a lengthy profile on Ted DiBiase is long overdue. I'll start working on it posthaste!

—•—

Q: What are the real names of Kamala, the Nasty Boys, Money Inc, Brian Pillman?

Barry Gilbert
East Meadow, NY

A: James Harris, Jerry (Saggs) Saganowich, Brian (Knobbs) Yandrisovitz, Michael (I.R.S.) Rotundo, Ted DiBiase, and Brian Pillman, respectively.

—•—

Q: Is Sensational Sherri the sister of Rick Martel? Will Kevin von Erich ever come to the WWF? Is Angelo Poffo related to Lanny Poffo and Randy Savage?

Please list me as a pen pal. My favorites are Backlund, Terry Taylor, Jushin Lyger, and Dr. Tom Prichard.

Gordon Hatherley
(age 15)
P.O. Box 1322
Hammond, IN 46325

A: Sherri and Rick are not related. Kevin could appear in the WWF, but to my knowledge, there are no negotiations in the works.

Angelo Poffo is the father of Lanny and Randy.

—•—

Q: How about an interview with Abdullah the Butcher? Where are the Ultimate Warrior and King Tonga?

Lynn Soucy
Montreal, Canada

A: We'd love to get a hold of Abdullah for an interview. (Just as long as he doesn't get a hold of us first!)

King Tonga (Len Hurst), who wrestled as Haku, is wrestling in WCW as Ming the bodyguard. The Ultimate Warrior (Jim Hellwig) runs a mail-order business of Warrior merchandise. (Sorry, I don't have the address.) He makes rare appearances on the independent circuit, and last year, he was the star in a direct-to-video motion picture called *Fire Power*.

—•—

Q: Last year, I saw a wrestler in the WWF called MVP—he had a painted face and his gimmick was being a baseball player. Who was he?

Robert O'Connor
Calgary, Canada

A: He was Steve Lombardi.

—•—

Q: Sometime ago, I used to see this wrestler on television. He never won a match, but I always enjoyed him. He seemed kind of goofy—The Duke of Dorchester. Whatever happened to him?

Helen Cavaness
Mendota, Il

A: He is Pete Doherty. I believe he does behind-the-scenes work for the WWF when they're on tour in New England. Do you remember when Pete, wrestling as the Golden Terror, battled with Mil Mascaras in the WWF circa 1977?

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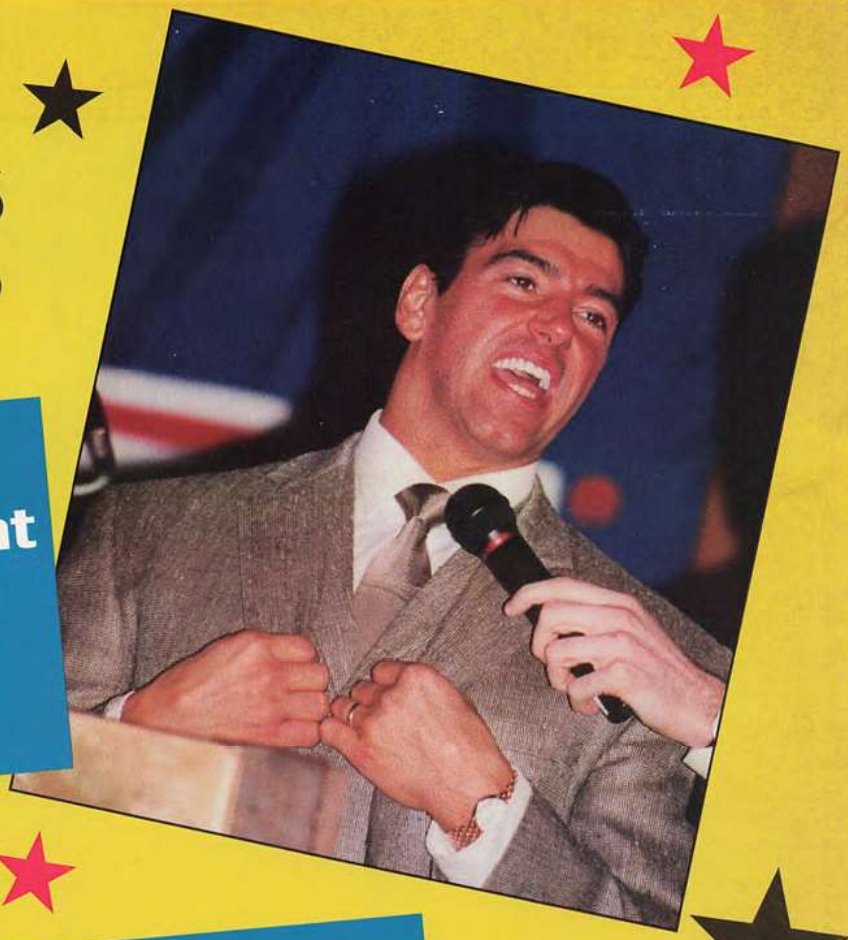

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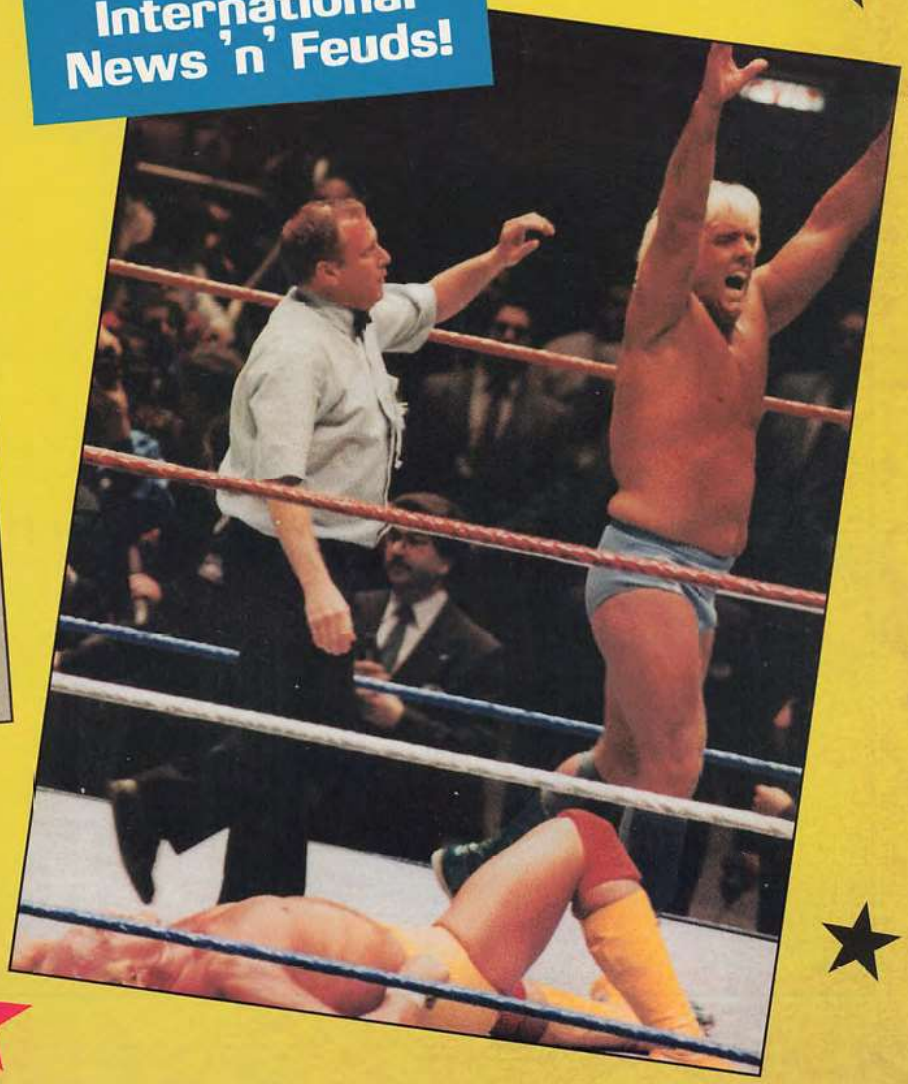

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